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## Government of Bengal

### Revenue Department

# Report on the Administration of Bengal 1934-35

(with a summary of political and general events for the calendar year 1935)

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1936

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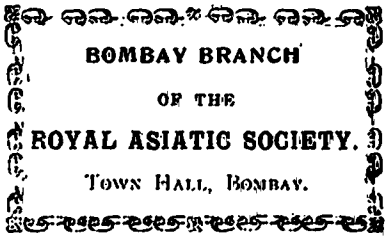


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# INTRODUCTION.

This Report is as usual divided into two parts. Part I deals with important political, economic, legislative and industrial events of the calendar year 1935. Part II comprises a detailed account, based upon departmental reports, of the work of the various branches of the administration during the financial year 1934-35. The Report is published under the authority and with the approval of the Government of Bengal, but this approval does not necessarily extend to every particular expression of opinion.

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# Bengal Administration Report, 1934-35.

## PART I.

## General Summary, 1935.

### (1) Political Review.

The Administration.

1. Throughout the year 1935 His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir John Anderson, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., continued to hold office as Governor of Bengal, and the personnel of the Bengal Executive Council remained unaltered. The Members of Council were the Hon'ble Sir John Ackroyd Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazim-ud-din, K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Reid, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Sir Brojendra Lal Mitter, K.C.S.I.; while the Hon'ble Nawab K. G. M. Faroqui of Ratanpur, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Ray, Kt., and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Md. Azizul Huque continued as Ministers to hold the portfolios of the transferred departments of Government.

Tour of His Excellency the Governor.

2. His Excellency the Governor carried out an extensive tour programme in the course of the year. In January, following the conclusion of a busy visit paid to Calcutta by Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon, he visited the districts of Nadia and Murshidabad, and was everywhere received with demonstrations of cordiality. No fewer than 15,000 persons welcomed him at Nabadwip, an ancient seat of Sanskrit culture, where he was pleased to accept from the Pandits the title of Gnana Sagar (Ocean of Learning). In February he paid similar visits to the districts of Birbhum and Bankura, and his presence at the college of Santiniketan at Bolpur was much appreciated.

At Bankura Bazar his reception was particularly genuine and spontaneous, and it is worthy of note that the address of welcome presented by the District Board was read by a member of the Congress Party. His Excellency was in Darjeeling from April until June, but paid a flying visit to Calcutta on May 6th for the Silver Jubilee celebrations there. At the beginning of July he spent twelve days at Dacca, and presided at the annual Durbar, Police Parade, and Convocation of the University. His speech at the Police Parade, foreshadowing the development of a scheme for the training of detenus in useful occupations, and his address to Convocation, stressing the need for educated persons to take a prominent lead in all aspects of village life and rural reconstruction, attracted wide attention and aroused favourable interest in the Press. His Excellency returned to Calcutta on July 21st, for the monsoon visit of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon, which extended up to August 8th. In August he fulfilled a number of engagements in Rajshahi and Pabna districts, and on his return journey visited the Hardinge Bridge over the Ganges. The speeches which he made in reply to the various addresses presented, and in particular his remarks upon the eradication of water-hyacinth, received extensive publicity. At the end of the same month he spent two days in Hooghly district, and the fact that no Governor had visited the headquarters town of Chinsura for eleven years, despite the fact that it lies only thirty miles from Calcutta, enhanced the importance of the occasion in the locality. Before proceeding to Darjeeling in September His Excellency inspected the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur; and on his return journey to Calcutta, which he reached on 8th November, he spent a short time at Jalpaiguri. After holding a Durbar in Calcutta on 13th November, His Excellency visited the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which had not been similarly honoured since 1922; and at the end of the month he returned to Calcutta for the farewell visit of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon. Their Excellencies spent a day at Kalimpong on their way to Calcutta, and on December 12th, accompanied by His Excellency the Governor, they went by air to Chittagong, where Her Excellency opened a new ward in the Hospital. The large crowd which assembled to bid them good-bye on the occasion of their departure in State from Calcutta on 3rd January 1936 testified to the esteem felt for Their Excellencies by reason of the interest which they have displayed in all forms of social and charitable activity.

**Congress activities.**

3. The fact, that His Excellency the Governor was able to devote a considerable portion of his time to the mufassal, is an

indication of the political situation in the Province. Unlike several of its immediate predecessors, the year 1935 was one of general calm. Civil disobedience, defeated in 1932 and discredited in 1933, had been formally discontinued in 1934, and the number of civil disobedience convicts in the Provincial jails fell during the year from 20 to 8. No alternative form of political agitation had been substituted for this movement; and the reforms effected by Mr. Gandhi at the Bombay session of the Congress in October, 1934, followed as they were by his own virtual retirement from the political arena, tended to weaken in Bengal the hold of an organization, the leaders of which made little secret of their disgust at the Province's twin troubles of terrorism and party faction. It was not therefore surprising that in the course of the year the cleavage between Bengal Congressmen and the Working Committee of Congress, which contained but one representative of this Province, became more pronounced; or that the Congress Socialist Party increased its influence at the expense of the more orthodox and conservative elements in the movement. Dissatisfaction with the attitude of neutrality adopted by the Working Committee towards the Communal Award, and discontent at its failure to arouse any organized public opinion against the approaching Reforms, found frequent expression in certain sections of the Nationalist Press. There was little evidence of enthusiasm, and apathy and indifference prevailed. The celebrations of "Independence Day" in January were of so undistinguished a character that they do not merit further reference; but it was significant that certain Congress newspapers frankly derided as moral formulæ, lacking the essential ingredients of political principles, the resolutions proposed by the Working Committee for repetition on this occasion. In February certain sections of the Press expressed disgust at the failure of the Congress group in the Legislative Assembly to take a firm stand against the Communal Award. During the same month the tendency towards the acceptance of Socialist and Communist ideas found expression in virulent speeches delivered at a series of meetings held in Calcutta under the auspices of two allied Communist organizations, and in March Government found it necessary to proscribe, under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908, thirteen associations of a subversive nature. Further violent speeches followed this action, and in consequence all meetings and demonstrations were banned in Calcutta for a period of three months. The necessity for the measures adopted was established by the recovery of quantities of subversive literature from the premises of these organizations, and by the repeated demands for violent and massed action which issued from their platforms; while the presence of Congressmen at the meetings

concerned, and the attitude adopted by the Congress Press towards Government's measures, indicated a further attempt to bring the forces of Labour within the Congress fold.

**Bengal Provincial Congress Committee Conference.**

4. In April the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee held its annual Conference at Dinajpur. The occasion excited comparatively little interest, several prominent Congress workers were absent, and less than 700 visitors attended the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. There was a pronounced Socialist atmosphere about the Conference, the Congress Socialist group distributed a large number of leaflets, and "Workers and Peasants" were the theme of many speeches. Despite the protests of the Muhammadan delegates, who left the Conference in a body, the rejection of the Communal Award was carried by a large majority; and resolutions were adopted eulogizing the services rendered by those who "suffered" during the civil disobedience campaign, and protesting against the "repressive" policy of Government. Practical decisions, however, were conspicuous by their absence, and the attitude adopted towards terrorism was typical of that presented by Congress as a whole. The Chairman of the Reception Committee denounced the terrorists; the President of the Conference expressed disapproval of their activities, but was more emphatic in his condemnation of Government's methods of combating them; while a Member of the Legislative Assembly referred openly to the "martyrdom of death-defying youths," and praised their "patriotism, self-sacrifice, and heroism." This Conference cannot be said to have made any appreciable contribution to current politics, and it merely demonstrated the extent to which the views of the Congress Socialists were obtaining a hold in Bengal, and the dissatisfaction of local leaders with the policy of the All-India Congress Committee.

**Growing divergence of views.**

5. The meeting of this Committee at Jubbulpore did little to heal the breach, for the question of Congress's attitude towards the new constitution was shelved, and a growing divergence of opinion became apparent between the supporters of the Left and the adherents of the Right. During the month of May several Nationalist newspapers awoke to these facts, and leading articles referred to the "crisis before the Congress," to the necessity of either expelling or absorbing the Congress Socialists, and to the superiority of their definite proletarian objectives over the vague capitalist ideals of the Congress creed itself. An alliance between Congress and Trade Unionism was advocated as essential to the attainment of Purna Swaraj. Few efforts, however, were made to put these theories into practice, and there was little noticeable Congress activity in the middle of the year. In a few districts recruitment of members was, indeed, intensified, but in the

majority of instances the immediate object in view was the capture of seats on Local Boards. Even the All-India Village Industries Association, which had been set up at Mr. Gandhi's instance for the purpose of rural reconstruction, aroused remarkably little enthusiasm in Bengal, and a visit of one of its members to the district of Murshidabad in July, produced few practical results. Throughout the year the Congress Press adopted an attitude of hostility towards the Report of the Joint Select Committee and the Government of India Bill, but the actual passage of the Bill through Parliament excited an interest that was characterized mainly by its almost fatalistic acceptance of the inevitable; and, when in July the Working Committee at Wardha again postponed a decision on the question of the acceptance of office by members of the Congress, one Nationalist newspaper in Calcutta published a trenchant "leader," advocating the capture of the Legislatures and the Cabinets and the acceptance of office under the new constitution. It was repeatedly contended that Bengal had been "let down" by Congress Headquarters, and that the Province must be allowed freedom of action in respect of the Reforms. Offence was taken in August at the Working Committee's refusal to take action upon the application of Mr. Subhas Bose, the absentee President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, for permission to carry on propaganda abroad in the name of the Congress; and the opinion expressed by Mr. Bhulabai Desai, the leader of the Congress Party in the Legislative Assembly, that Congress should not interfere between the Princes and their people, evoked the criticism that the Working Committee was anxious to placate the States by confining its activities to the Provinces. Dissatisfaction and despondency increasingly characterised the attitude of Congress in Bengal. The appointment of the Marquesses of Zetland and Linlithgow as Secretary of State and Viceroy-designate aroused little save gloomy and somewhat captious criticism.

Internal strife.

6. In connection with the Congress Socialist Conference in Calcutta in September, the Nationalist Press admitted that there was in Congress circles a veering round towards a new philosophy, and that while there could never be in Congress itself any open war between the classes and the masses, there were definite indications that majority opinion was inclining towards the Left. In October considerable discontent was aroused by the action of the All-India Congress Committee at Madras in again shelving the question of the acceptance of office; and relations between the Congress leaders and their Provincial followers were not improved by a further failure on the part of the former to settle the differences between the two factions in the Provincial Congress Committee.

These differences, dating from the personal rivalry between Mr. Subhas Bose and Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, were accentuated by the refusal of a section of the Committee to accept certain of Mr. Bose's suggestions for a settlement, and resulted in an announcement made by the Provincial Secretary in November to the effect that 25 out of the 34 members of the Committee had resigned. At the same time the poor opinion entertained at Congress Headquarters of the importance of the Province in the sphere of Congress activity was illustrated by the announcement of Mr. Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, to the effect that the Working Committee had no present intention of attempting to interfere in the squabbles in Bengal. A meeting held in Calcutta to settle the quarrel was attended by the members of one faction only, who referred the matter to the arbitration of Mr. Sarat Bose. This gentleman, a brother of Mr. Subhas Bose, had been since 1932 a State Prisoner under Regulation III of 1818. He had been permitted to live under restrictions near Kurseong, and he was released at the end of July while in Calcutta on parole. His return was greeted with acclamation as an act of belated justice, and the Calcutta Corporation presented him with an address of welcome. Mr. Bose, however, showed little inclination to plunge into politics, and at the end of the year no further progress had been made towards a compromise, despite the publication of his "award".

Golden Jubilee of Congress.

7. The lack of a political programme and the absence of any effective central Congress organization in Bengal was further illustrated by the want of interest shown throughout the Province in the arrangements made to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Congress on 28th December. Flag hoisting ceremonies, meetings and speeches were the principal items on the programme both in Calcutta and in most of the larger towns, but these functions were attended by comparatively small crowds, and the principal meeting at Sraddananda Park, Calcutta, attracted not more than 3,000 spectators. The date of the celebrations coincided with the Muhammadan festival of Id-ul-fitr, but there was no diminution of the immense congregation of Moslems who participated in the annual religious ceremony upon the Calcutta Maidan. In fact the simultaneous gathering of Congress supporters and Muhammadan worshippers in separate assemblies and frequently in close juxtaposition merely emphasized the widening gulf between the two communities, and the alleged interference of Congress music with Muhammadan prayers resulted in a communal riot at Deshbandhu Park, Calcutta, while another was narrowly averted in Wellington Square. In general the response of Bengal to the Jubilee appeals of Congress leaders, most of whom were assembled in

Bombay, must be described as poor; and it indicated the extent to which the Congress has lost popular sympathy in this Province during recent years by the ineffectiveness of its programme and by its persistent refusal to face realities in respect of the political and economic problems of the country.

Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee.

8. Probably the most impressive feature of the year's record was the remarkable interest evinced in Their Imperial Majesties' Silver Jubilee in May. The celebrations which began on 6th May were marked by a spontaneity and an enthusiasm that was both extraordinary and encouraging. All classes and creeds contributed towards the success of the festivities, and although the Congress as a whole remained aloof, unusual scenes marked the celebrations throughout the Province. In Calcutta these commenced with a Royal Salute of 31 guns fired from Fort William. His Excellency the Governor travelled down from Darjeeling and was present at the special services held in St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Andrew's Church, both of which were attended by crowded congregations. In the evening he presented Jubilee Medals to a large number of recipients at a Durbar held in the Legislative Council Chamber. During the day no fewer than 40,000 poor persons were fed on the Maidan, and 125,000 children observed the occasion at ceremonies held in the schools of the city; while in the evening a display of dancing was given near the Ochterlony Monument by 1,000 members of the Bratachari movement. Unprecedented crowds thronged the streets at night to watch the extensive illuminations. Many of the principal buildings were flood-lit, and ships on the Hooghly were outlined with lights. Not for many years had Calcutta witnessed such an exhibition of public rejoicing, and the Police were the recipients of well-deserved tributes for the tact and good humour with which they handled the masses of traffic and the swarms of sightseers. On the following day the Commissioner of the Presidency Division took the salute at a great military parade, that was watched by large crowds. A Scout Rally was held in the afternoon, and the official celebrations closed with a fireworks display in the evening. Similar scenes marked the celebrations in the districts. At Dacca a Durbar and Searchlight Tattoo held on the Race-Course was attended by thousands of spectators, while the decoration of the main streets of the town with triumphal arches erected by the mohulla sardars, and the illumination of the principal buildings, attracted large crowds, many of whom came in procession from neighbouring villages. Addresses were delivered by leading officials and non-officials in all the principal schools, and on the evening of 7th May processions of school-children carrying banners and flags converged upon the Intermediate College for a brilliant display of fireworks. The celebrations at Narayanganj

were particularly well organized, and a parade of decorated motor-cars carrying propaganda tableaux excited considerable interest. Great enthusiasm was displayed at Mymensingh, where a Durbar was held and 10,000 of the poor were fed. The athletic sports, organized for the occasion and watched by a very large crowd, commenced with a procession of competitors led by the Union Jack, and terminated with cheers for Their Majesties. A similar Durbar, extensive illuminations and huge crowds marked the celebrations at Barisal, and when the District Magistrate visited a centre of disaffection, he was presented with a loyal address of welcome by one who had been the principal non-co-operator of the place. Sixteen thousand school children were handsomely entertained in the district of Tipperah, and the feeling displayed at Chittagong seemed to indicate that the continued existence of a terrorist movement among a small section of the community constituted no real reflection upon the loyalty of the great mass of the inhabitants. The celebrations in the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions were an unqualified success, and the occurrence of a few petty impertinences on the part of anti-Government protagonists merely served to emphasize the fact that the hearts of the majority were in the right place. In Midnapore district Durbars were held at the headquarters station and in all the subdivisions, and a military parade at the former was attended by a great crowd of interested onlookers. Sankirtan parties were organized on an extensive scale, thousands of the poor were fed, and a large number of films were widely exhibited to enthusiastic audiences. The Silver Jubilee of 1935 will not soon be forgotten, and even allowing that some part of the enthusiasm resulted from the national predilection for a "tamasha", it cannot be gainsaid that the occasion was marked by a very spontaneous outburst of genuine feeling. This was further illustrated by the extent of the Provincial contribution to the Silver Jubilee Fund, started by His Excellency the Viceroy. The collections made in this province exceeded Rs. 11½ lakhs, of which slightly more than Rs. 7 lakhs were raised in the districts and nearly Rs. 4½ lakhs in Calcutta. More than Rs. 9 lakhs, was forwarded to the Central Fund by the Provincial Committee; and it may fairly be said that a total contribution of over £86,000 showed that several years of political agitation and economic stringency had not appreciably diminished the respect and regard felt for Their Imperial Majesties by the great majority of the people of Bengal.

**Government of India Act, 1935.**

9. On 2nd August, after seven years deliberation and enquiry in England and India and seven months detailed consideration by Parliament, the Government of India Act, 1935, received the Royal Assent. The Act provides for the Federation of India, the virtual

autonomy of the Provinces and the separation of Burma; and at the close of the year the provisions relating to India and Burma were divided, so as to form two distinct statutes. This comprehensive measure does not require general comment here, but the important changes which it introduces into the political structure of Bengal merit a brief reference. The Act prescribes a great extension of the franchise in this Province. It confers the right to vote in a territorial constituency upon any person with a place of residence therein who, during the year prior to an election, was assessed to income-tax or paid a prescribed amount on account of Motor Vehicles Act, Calcutta Corporation, municipal, cantonment, chaukidari or union tax or road and public works cess, or occupied by virtue of his employment a house with an annual valuation of not less than Rs. 42. A similar privilege is conferred upon all persons who hold matriculation or corresponding examination certificates from any prescribed University, or are retired, pensioned or discharged officers, non-commissioned officers or men of His Majesty's regular military forces. Additional qualifications have been laid down for women who are pensioned widows or mothers of such officers and men of the forces, or whose husbands fulfil certain other qualifications dependent upon taxation or service. The Act further provides reserved seats for the Scheduled Castes and a certain number of special seats for women in both Provincial and Federal Legislatures. The present Bengal Legislative Council of ex-officio, nominated and elected representatives is replaced by a lower house or Legislative Assembly of 250 elected members, and an upper house or Legislative Council comprising 63-65 seats, of which 27 are to be filled by the Legislative Assembly, 6-8 by nomination, and the rest by direct election. The representation of the Province in the Federal Council of State is raised to 20 members chosen by direct election; while in the Federal House of Assembly the present quota of members is increased to 37, of whom 27 are to be chosen by the Provincial Legislature and the remaining 10 by special electoral colleges. No person holding an office of profit under the Crown in India may be a member of any Legislature, and by this provision the Act abolishes the present official bloc. The Governor's Executive Council is replaced by a Council of Ministers, who will assume charge of all departments of the administration; and as non-membership of the Provincial Legislature for six consecutive months operates as a disqualification for ministerial office, it follows that Ministers will ordinarily be elected representatives of the people. Notwithstanding the safeguards provided against emergencies, and the concentration of certain special powers in the hands of the Governor, it is idle to pretend, in the manner of the Congress Press, that these reforms do not constitute a great

forward step in the constitutional history of Bengal; and the Local Government's appreciation of the magnitude of the approaching changes was illustrated by the preliminary steps which were taken during the year to prepare for the advent of the new regime.

**Preliminary Constitutional steps.**

10. The foundations of the future political edifice were laid in the Communal Award, the Poona Pact and the White Paper; and from 1932 until 1935 a Provincial Advisory Committee appointed by the Local Government was at work upon the delimitation of constituencies for the Federal and Provincial Legislatures. The basic franchise qualifications recommended by the Local Government in 1932 have, with certain additions, been incorporated in the Act; and in order to ascertain the probable extent of the new electorate, orders were issued in March, 1935, for the preparation of provisional electoral rolls of the General and Muhammadan communities. It is expected that under the new constitution approximately 7,000,000 persons or 13 per cent. of the total population of the Province, will be entitled to vote in the ordinary rural and urban constituencies of the Bengal Legislative Assembly. The Provincial Advisory Committee concluded the work of its first session in March 1934, and the draft proposals of Government in respect of the constituencies for the Provincial Legislature were published in July 1935. Criticism was invited, and the 168 memorials submitted by public bodies and private individuals were carefully considered by the Committee, which commenced its second session in August. On 14th and 15th August Government's proposals were discussed in the Bengal Legislative Council, which recommended that the proceedings should be forwarded to the Indian Delimitation Committee appointed by the Secretary of State. A certain number of constructive suggestions were put forward in the course of this debate, but despite appeals to the contrary, communalism tinged the speeches of many of the 36 members who participated in it. Government's proposals in respect of the Federal Legislature constituencies were published on 25th August. The constituencies for the great majority of seats in the Council of State and House of Assembly have been prescribed in the Act itself, and the Local Government was therefore concerned only with a few special seats. For this reason, while the 27 memorials submitted were considered in detail by the Advisory Committee, it was not suggested that there should be a further debate in the Legislative Council. The final proposals of Government in respect of all constituencies were placed before the Indian Delimitation Committee, which sat in Calcutta in the month of November and was expected to present its Report early in the New Year; and the importance of these preliminary constitutional steps is to be found in

the further expectation that the first elections to the reformed Provincial Legislature will be held in the winter of 1936-37, and that the Government of India Act will begin to operate in the Provinces in the Spring of 1937.

Communal relations.

11. Relations between the two great communities in the Province showed few signs of improvement during the year, and although there was no major outbreak of communal violence, a succession of minor occurrences demonstrated the readiness of the flame of antagonism to flare up on the slightest provocation. With the exception of certain insignificant disputes in the districts of Pabna, Nadia and Khulna, the *Id* festival in January was celebrated quietly. There was some excitement at Gopalganj in February, and tension during Local Board elections in Noakhali necessitated the temporary posting of police and troops in certain areas as a precautionary measure. *Id-uz-zoha* in March likewise passed off peacefully, and except for a few purely local incidents there was no trouble during the Mohurram celebrations in April. An unfortunate clash occurred in Noakhali between a platoon of Dogra soldiers and some local Muhammadans, but the affair had few serious repercussions. Resentment at the firing by troops upon a riotous mob at Karachi found expression in suggestions that Muhammadans should boycott the Silver Jubilee celebrations in May, and a statement made by the Mayor of Calcutta concerning the offering of prayers for Their Majesties in the mosques of Bengal did not improve matters. In fact, however, the proposed boycott failed to materialize. A small communal riot at Raniganj in the same month resulted in injuries to 6 constables and 14 other persons, but the disturbance was nipped in the bud and similar prompt action quelled a riot at Serampore in June over the demolition of an alleged mosque. Two cases of resuscitation of abandoned mosques, one the property of a municipality and the other belonging to a Hindu, pointed on the other hand to an eagerness to enforce religious rights, and may have had some connection with the agitation at Lahore, consequent upon the demolition of the Sahidganj mosque. This incident gave rise to acrimonious comments in both the Hindu and Muhammadan Press in Bengal, and provided an opportunity for each side to attack the policy of the Government of the Punjab. In September the conviction of certain Moslems, as a result of an organized attack upon some isolated Hindu inhabitants of a village in Rajshahi district, caused mischievous recriminations between Muhammadan and Hindu newspapers; and in the same month communal excitement at Beldanga, the scene of grave rioting in 1933, was only allayed by the prompt action of the local authorities. Orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, were issued at Natore

and in Malda district in October, on account of apprehensions of a breach of the peace, and a similar order was enforced in the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district during the *Durga Pujah* celebrations. In a speech at the St. Andrew's Day dinner in November His Excellency the Governor deplored the extent of communal bitterness, and expressed concern at the manner in which a large section of the Press was encouraging or pandering to the communal spirit. He pointed out the dangers which would ensue if rivalry based upon communal cleavage was exploited as a means of winning those prizes which, under a democratic system, are believed to be the reward of the party which can establish itself in the majority; and he appealed to the potential leaders of the various parties in Bengal to face these dangers squarely, and not to countenance any attempts by one community to weaken another by creating or exploiting a split in its ranks. The pertinency of His Excellency's advice was illustrated by the disorderly scenes witnessed in the Calcutta Corporation in December, during a debate on a motion to earmark 25 per cent. of Corporation appointments for Muhammadans, and by the subsequent resignation of 15 Muhammadan Councillors and of the Mayor, Mr. Fazlul Huq.

**Calcutta Corporation.**

12. In view of the state of communal relations in Bengal, the election of Mr. Fazlul Huq as the first Muhammadan Mayor of Calcutta was a development of some interest. It was only a split in the Muhammadan vote that prevented the success of a Muhammadan candidate in 1933, and Mr. Huq himself was actually elected by the Sen Gupta-*cum*-Muhammadan group at the disorderly meeting which disgraced the Corporation in May 1934 and necessitated intervention by the Local Government. The eventual upshot was that Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar held office as Mayor during the financial year 1934-35; but in April 1935 Congress support enabled Mr. Huq to achieve the Mayoral chair. Ever since the Congress party captured control of it, the Corporation has reacted strongly towards current politics, and its behaviour during the year under review proved no exception to rule. Mr. Huq obtained some prominence by the support which he gave to Trade Union and Workers' Associations, and in July he was elected President of the Bengal Mariners' Union. In connection with the Reforms, the Corporation declined to favour Government with its views on the delimitation of Calcutta constituencies, on the ground that the new constitution was being "forced upon the country". The Corporation's misplaced sympathy with persons placed under restraint on account of their connection with terrorism found an unfortunate expression in

November, when it decided by a majority of 30 votes to 12 to allocate a piece of its property for the erection of a memorial to two detenus killed during the disturbance at the Hijli detention camp in 1931. Government decided that such an edifice would tend to excite sympathy with terrorism, and to secure adherents to the terrorist movement; and the Memorial Committee was accordingly declared an unlawful association under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908. On the other hand it is pleasant to be able to record that the Corporation celebrated Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee by the issue of an excellent Jubilee Number of the *Calcutta Municipal Gazette;* while on the occasion of the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria in December, it unanimously offered its respectful condolences to Their Majesties and the Royal Family, the sponsor of the resolution declaring that the Corporation's loyalty and devotion to the Royal House of England was proverbially deep and unimpeachable.

Civic administration.

13. Patriotism, however, is not enough. In the administration of public affairs it requires to be coupled with efficiency. Suggestions have frequently been made in recent years that the City Fathers of Calcutta would do well to devote less of their time to the expression of contentious political opinions, and more of it to the details of civic administration; and this criticism was lent particular force during the year under review by a number of incidents which suggested that Congress control of the Corporation has not in fact proved so efficient as its supporters would have the public believe. In June and July the Corporation Scavengers and Labour Union addressed several letters to Government complaining of the belated payment of wages, and in the latter month deputations from this Union and from the employees of the Palta Waterworks waited upon the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer, to draw their attention to the alleged prevalence of bribery among the Corporation's subordinate staff and to the existence of corruption among its contractors. A strike which would have paralysed the conservancy arrangements of the city was only averted by the payment of arrear salaries and the appointment of an Enquiry Committee. The failure of the Corporation authorities to provide an adequate supply of drinking water in certain wards during the summer provoked general dissatisfaction and many protests in the Press; and reports that the water itself was subject to contamination necessitated a discussion of the problems of water-supply and drainage at a conference especially convened by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government. In November an adjourned Special Meeting of the Corporation failed for want of a quorum; and a European member

of the Building Standing Committee tendered his resignation as a protest against its practice of relaxing building regulations and ignoring departmental recommendations. The Government Auditors' Report on the Corporation Accounts for the year 1933-34 was issued in the same month, and disclosed a remarkable state of affairs. The Audit Report for the year 1929-30 had not yet been satisfactorily disposed of by the Chief Executive Officer, and the Reports for the subsequent years had not been considered by the Corporation at all. Outstanding advances had increased from Rs. 17¼ lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 32½ lakhs in 1933-34, and the total of uncollected arrear rates had risen from Rs. 8 lakhs in 1926-27 to no less a sum than Rs. 36¾ lakhs during the year under audit. Several Councillors of the Corporation had defaulted in the payment of rates, but no warrants had been issued against any of these gentlemen, nor had legal steps been taken against them. In the License Department the outstandings had risen from Rs. 4½ lakhs in 1931 to nearly Rs. 7½ lakhs in 1933; and the arrears in respect of carriage and animal licenses were in March, 1934 more than three times the total annual demand. The outstandings in the Law Department alone had risen by Rs. 3 lakhs during the year under audit; and the Auditors pointed to the transactions in connection with the Corporation Motor Car as an example of unjustifiable experimenting with ratepayers' money. With the object of proving that a car could be constructed in Calcutta, the Corporation ordered one from a local workman in August 1931. This vehicle took two years to build, and was not passed by the Police until November, 1933. In the following month it was damaged by fire at an Exhibition in Sraddhananda Park, and the repairs were not completed until November, 1934. It was then garaged, for use on special occasions only, and was requisitioned for such a purpose on 9th March, 1935. Four days later a report was received that three persons had been injured while trying to start it, and that the front wheels were defective. It was accordingly returned to the Corporation Workshops, where it had remained ever since. Despite the fact that this car had never been proved to be fit for use, the entire cost of its construction, amounting to Rs. 3,000, had been paid to the builder, and various other sums had been spent on its repair. The discontent aroused by Corporation inefficiency found expression in the activities of the Rate-payers' Welfare League, and in an appeal for a programme of "Integrity, Efficiency and Economy" issued by the British Municipal Electors' Committee; and in view of the fact that the Municipal elections are due to be held in March 1936, the probable effect of these significant incidents upon the future personnel and policy of the Corporation was a matter of considerable interest at the close of the year.

Terrorist activities.

14. While Congress continued to languish and the problems of the new constitution loomed larger and larger upon the political horizon, Bengal continued to wrestle with the demon of terrorism. The year 1935 witnessed no major terrorist outrage in the usually accepted sense of the term, but if the incidents which occurred demonstrated the partial degeneration of terrorism into gangsterism, they nevertheless constituted a reminder that the menace of this movement has merely been curbed and not eliminated. A series of minor occurrences exemplified the prevalence of the terrorist mentality among the youths of Bengal. In January five young men extorted at the point of the revolver nearly Rs. 300 worth of ornaments from a goldsmith of Dinajpur, and terrorist leaflets were distributed in certain villages in the districts of Chittagong and Murshidabad. Revolutionary posters were affixed to the walls of the College and Zilla School at Pabna; a revolutionary pamphlet was sent to the Principal of the Dacca Islamia Intermediate College; and the Additional Superintendent of Police at Dacca, as well as the Superintendent of Police at Pabna, received letters threatening them with death. Similar letters were sent in February to a Sub-Inspector of the District Intelligence Branch at Serajganj, and to a prosecution witness in a conspiracy case at Hooghly. During these two months quantities of terrorist literature were recovered as a result of searches carried out at various places in the districts of Midnapore, Rangpur, Dacca, Faridpur and Noakhali. In March two youths attempted to seize at the point of the revolver a mail bag from a train near Faridpur; and three other young men armed with revolvers secured several bags of mail from a train between Chapai Nawabganj and Amnura. The Inspector of Police, District Intelligence Branch, Rajshahi, received a threatening letter from Benares, and further finds of revolutionary literature were made in Dacca and Midnapore districts. In April, a mail runner in the district of Jessore was attacked by three *bhadralok* youths, who robbed him of the bags which he was carrying; while in May three young men snatched a bag of mail from a runner in Faridpur district. It is satisfactory to note that two of the latter were chased and captured by local Muhammadan cultivators. In the same month a revolver and some cartridges were stolen from an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police. Revolutionary leaflets entitled "Be ready with your pistol" appeared in certain villages of Pabna district in May; the District Magistrate of Howrah received a letter threatening him with death if the Silver Jubilee celebrations were not stopped; and information was obtained of a meditated attempt upon the life of the District Magistrate of Murshidabad. On June 4th a youth, who was apparently thought to be a Police spy, was stabbed to death in Faridpur district; while on June 15th the Sub-Inspector

of Police in charge of Goalundo Ghat thana in the same district was murdered with a *dao* by a detenu domiciled in that locality, who was arrested on the spot. During the same month guns were stolen in Jessore and Chittagong districts, and threatening letters were sent to the District Magistrate of Dacca and to an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police in Birbhum; while revolutionary leaflets appeared again in Chittagong, and searches revealed the presence of terrorist literature in the districts of Rajshahi, Faridpur, and Noakhali. On July 3rd a domiciled detenu was killed with knives in broad daylight near Government House at Dacca by two political suspects, who seemed to be under the impression that he was giving information to the Police. One was chased and caught by passers-by, and the other was captured shortly afterwards. Later in the same month leaflets exciting local students to kill the District Intelligence Branch Officer were found at the Zilla School at Pabna, and in August further leaflets entitled "Long live revolution" were discovered in the same institution as well as in the Technical School. On August 2nd a revolver and 25 rounds of ammunition were stolen from the house of a European at Barrackpore. A few days later a terrorist poster appeared upon the notice-board of the High English School at Bajitpur in Mymensingh district. On September 1st two leaflets, containing an impassioned and bloodthirsty appeal for revolution, and addressed respectively to students and to members of Anti-Terrorist Associations, were distributed in Chittagong by the "Surjya Communist Party"; while on September 3rd revolutionary posters appeared upon the gates of the Narail College, Jessore district, on the occasion of the visit of the Divisional Commissioner. On 9th September terrorist prisoners in the Midnapore Central Jail severely assaulted a warder, and the District Magistrate's enquiry established the fact that their behaviour was premeditated and unprovoked. It is satisfactory to record that nine of them were subsequently convicted. During the same month further threatening letters were received by the District Magistrate of Dacca, while searches in Chittagong district in November brought to light a quantity of dynamite and ammunition.

**Government successes.**

15. The recovery of arms and ammunition, and the capture of a number of absconders and suspects, testified on the one hand to the continued existence of terrorist organizations and on the other to the vigilance and courage of the Police. In January an important absconder of the Anusilan Party was arrested with incriminating documents in the 24-Parganas district; and Purnananda Das Gupta, who with Sitanath De and Niranjan Ghosal had escaped from the Alipore Central Jail during the trial of the

Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case in July, 1934, was arrested with two other terrorists at Titagarh, and an automatic pistol, ammunition, revolutionary literature, chemicals and explosive formulæ were recovered at the same time. In the same month a muzzle-loading pistol was seized in Hooghly, a 6-chambered revolver was recovered by a *chaukidar* from a tank in the same district, and spare parts of fire-arms were found at Natore; while a Chittagong Raid Case absconder was arrested at Canning as a result of the acumen of a *bhadralok* constable. In February two guns and other weapons were seized from a house in Mymensingh district. In March a revolver and an automatic pistol were recovered in Faridpur, two guns were found in each of the districts of Jessore and Bakarganj, a country-made pistol and some cartridges were seized in Midnapore, a stolen gun was traced in Mymensingh, and some ammunition was located in Pabna. The absconder Niranjan Ghosal, mentioned above, was arrested in April; and in the same month some ammunition was discovered in Mymensingh, a 6-chambered revolver was found upon the person of a passenger in a train at Asansol, and 49 live and 36 fired cartridges were recovered from a tank in Dinajpur district. In May 3 revolvers, a gun, and 21 cartridges were seized in Dinajpur, and ammunition was discovered in the districts of Bankura and Faridpur. On 5th June the premises of the Rajshahi City Bank were searched, and some cartridges and documents containing formulæ for the preparation of T.N.T. and cordite were seized. The month of June saw also the recovery of a revolver, some cartridges and a detective warrant, which had been stolen from an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police; while a single-barrelled rifle and some cartridges were secured in Malda, a revolver and some cartridges in Khulna, and a gun in Bakarganj. In July an absconder was arrested in Chittagong; a pistol of Belgian make was recovered in Mymensingh; and a 5-chambered revolver was seized at Asansol railway station from a passenger in the Bombay mail, who escaped while being interrogated, jumped from the platform, and was cut to pieces by a passing train. On August 3rd a 6-chambered revolver and 3 cartridges were found in the pocket of a youth at Tollyganj; on August 4th 3 bombs, some chemicals, and some explosive formulæ were seized at Dacca, and a gun was recovered in Mymensingh; while on August 17th a regular battery of firearms, comprising a revolver, a pistol, three guns and 32 rounds of ammunition, was discovered at Dinajpur. In the latter part of August an important absconder was arrested in Pabna district, and in September a revolver and a muzzle-loading pistol were seized in Noakhali. At the beginning of October another absconder was secured in Dinajpur, and two important arrests were effected in Chittagong. In November a process-server in the 24-Parganas district recovered a revolver

while attaching some property in a house, and another revolver was seized from a house in Faridpur district.

**Special Courts.**

16. The extent of terrorist conspiracies for the secretion of arms and the commission of outrages, and the measure of Government's success in combating them, were further indicated by the large number of cases disposed of by Special Courts in the course of the year. In February Dhanesh Bhattacharji, a detenu who escaped from the Bankura Leper Asylum and was captured while in possession of a loaded revolver, was convicted by a Special Tribunal at Dacca. In the same month a Special Tribunal sitting at Dinajpur disposed of three connected terrorist dacoity cases, as a result of which 8 persons received sentences ranging from 10 to 4 years' rigorous imprisonment. On 1st May the Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case, which had been proceeding for many months before a Special Tribunal at Alipore, ended in the conviction of no less than 35 persons in respect of offences of a terrorist and revolutionary character. Six were sentenced to transportation for life, and the rest to varying terms of imprisonment. In July the detenu who murdered the Sub-Inspector of Police at Goalundo was sentenced to death by a Special Tribunal at Faridpur, and in September the two youths who stabbed a detenu at Dacca were likewise sentenced to death by a Special Tribunal sitting in that city. The latter sentence was subsequently reduced by the High Court to transportation for life. At the close of the year a Special Tribunal at Alipore was engaged in trying 31 persons, including a woman, in connection with the recoveries of arms consequent upon the arrest of Purnanandu Das Gupta in January. Magistrates vested with special powers under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act disposed of many somewhat similar cases, some of which are worth recording. Four youths were convicted in an Arms Act case at Rajshahi in January, two of whom, aged 15, pleaded guilty to the charge and were sent to the Borstal School at Bankura. In a Conspiracy Case at Rangpur in February, thirteen persons received sentences ranging from 7 years' rigorous imprisonment to a fine of Rs. 50; and in March two young men were convicted of somewhat similar offences in the Garbetta Conspiracy Case. At Bankura two *bhadralok* youths were convicted of mail robbery, and in April a third was sentenced at Vishnupur to 5 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing cartridges and materials for the repair of revolvers. Two persons were convicted at Dacca for harbouring the absconder Dhanesh Bhattacharji, and in Birbhum seven persons were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for conspiracy to commit robbery and dacoity. In the Gaibandha Arms Conspiracy Case in May a further batch of seven youths was convicted, while in the same

month there was a conviction in Dinajpur for possession of letters inciting to violence, and another in Bakarganj for the possession of explosives. At Hooghly, in a case of dacoity with double murder, eight persons received sentences ranging downwards from 7 years' rigorous imprisonment, and in August two youths were convicted in Nadia district for the unlawful possession of a revolver. A number of similar cases were disposed of during the remaining months of the year; and it is to be hoped that the sentences imposed by these Courts will go some way towards diminishing the number of criminal conspiracies and crimes of violence.

Deportation to the Andamans.

17. The policy adopted in 1932, of deporting terrorist convicts to the Andamans, was continued during 1935, and in the course of the year 91 convicts of this type were despatched to Port Blair from Bengal. Congress leaders continued to evince sympathy for these deportees, and in April Mr. Mohanlal Saxena, a member of the Congress group in the Legislative Assembly, applied for permission to visit the Andamans. As his ostensible object was to enquire into the "alleged hardships" of the terrorist convicts in the Cellular Jail, it was perhaps hardly surprising that his request was refused by the Government of India. In May the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Narayaswami Chetty, Member of the Council of State, who had behind him 25 years of interest in prison reform, paid a private visit to the Islands, and on his return published two letters to Government commenting favourably upon the conditions in which he found the terrorist convicts living. In August a Congress member tabled a resolution in the Bengal Legislative Council recommending the retransfer of all such prisoners from the Andamans to Bengal. Want of time prevented discussion on this motion, but it afforded a regrettable example of the concern felt in certain quarters for persons convicted of terrorist crimes. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the Andamans have never been actually closed down as a penal settlement, and that, in addition to terrorists, about 6,000 ordinary convicts are detained at Port Blair. The object of sending convicted terrorists to this place is to prevent them forming in Bengal the nucleus of plots and cospiracies, to reduce the chances of their escape, and to remove a source of danger to the discipline and security of Bengal Jails; and in view of these facts it is regrettable that sympathy for this small band of dangerous criminals should continue to be shown by Congress organizations.

Anti-terrorist activities.

18. Throughout the year the efforts of Government and its officers continued to be directed, not merely to the breaking up of terrorist conspiracies, but also towards the eradication of the terrorist mentality in affected areas of the Province. The Military Intelligence Officers, who with the status of Superintendents of

Police are assisting the civil administration, have done most valuable work in this direction in the districts of Midnapore, Chittagong, Tipperah, Noakhali, Faridpur, Dacca, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Murshidabad. Encouragement was given to the formation of local Anti-Terrorist Committees affiliated to the All-Bengal Anti-Terrorist Association, and in addition to those already formed, a number of such committees were organized in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Jessore, and Faridpur districts. Attention was particularly concentrated upon schools and colleges, and successful efforts were made in Midnapore, Noakhali and Rangpur to introduce organized games upon the basis of the "house" system, as an antidote to the virus of terrorist recruitment. Although it is satisfactory to be able to record that no collective fines were inflicted or additional police quartered in any part of the Province during the year, certain provisions of the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act had to be extended to portions of the districts of Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Faridpur and Bakarganj. The identity card system for Hindu *bhadralok* youths continued in force in Midnapore and Chittagong, and in the latter place it was extended to certain fresh areas. Orders were also passed by the District Magistrate of Chittagong regulating the passage of such young men to and from Burma. The restrictions in respect of visitors to the district of Darjeeling, which were imposed in 1934 as a result of the attempted assassination of His Excellency the Governor at Lebong, were again enforced during certain periods of the year.

**Employment of troops.**

19. The Additional Garrison of 7 battalions of regular troops, which were posted in Bengal towards the end of 1932, continued during 1935 to assist the civil authorities in the general campaign against terrorism. At the beginning of the year the 2/16th Punjab Regiment was operating in Bankura district, with two detachments stationed at Rajshahi and Santahar; the 2/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles had units in seven different camps in Midnapore district; and the 4/7th Rajput Regiment occupied seven separate posts in the districts of Rangpur, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri. These comprised the 6th Infantry Brigade, with its Headquarters at Kharagpur. The 9th Infantry Brigade was centred in Dacca, and covered East Bengal. The 1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment held eight outlying posts in the Munshiganj subdivision of Dacca district; the 2/8th Punjab Regiment was working in Mymensingh, with four detachments in Noakhali district and another four in Faridpur; the 3/17th Dogra Regiment, operating from Comilla, had nine platoons posted in various parts of Tipperah district; and the 5/2nd Punjab Regiment had

two units in Chittagong and two in Noakhali. Generally speaking work continued on lines similar to those adopted during the previous year, varying only according to the different requirements of each district. Flag marches were carried out in the Rajshahi Division and in Midnapore and Birbhum, and valuable assistance was rendered to the police in all the districts in which the troops were employed. Co-operation between the civil and military authorities continued to be excellent, and with the exception of a few minor and purely local incidents, the relations between the troops and the civil population were very friendly. At the beginning of the cold weather the Additional Garrison was reduced from seven battalions to five; and at the close of the year the 5/2nd Punjab Regiment with its headquarters at Dacca was operating in four places in the Madaripur subdivision of Faridpur district, the 2/17th Dogra Regiment at Comilla had five detachments operating in Mymensingh, the 3/8th Punjab Regiment at Chittagong had four platoons out in Noakhali district, the 4/7th Rajput Regiment was engaged in Rangpur and Rajshahi districts, and the 2/16th Punjab Regiment was working in Midnapore and Bankura. There can be little question that the presence of these military forces in the districts most affected by terrorism not merely provided assistance to the civil authorities, but also gave encouragement to the loyal element in the population and acted as a partial deterrent in respect of terrorist plotting and propaganda.

Preventive detention.

20. Preventive detention or restriction under the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act continued, however, during the year to be the principal method employed to guard against the commission of terrorist outrages; and the detention camps at Buxar and Hijli, the two camps at Berhampore, and the camp at Deoli in Ajmere Merwara all remained in commission. At the close of the year, out of a total of 3,418 persons dealt with under the Act, 194 had been released before the expiration of two months, 472 had been released unconditionally or upon terms, 214 were in home domicile, 838 in village domicile, 35 had been externed from Bengal, 1,517 were detained in jails and camps, 21 had died, 21 were untraced, the orders against 2 had been allowed to lapse, and 104 had been convicted or were awaiting trial in respect of specific offences.

Detenu Day.

21. Despite the insistence of its leaders that Congress, being pledged to non-violence, could have no connection with or interest in terrorism, the All-India Congress Committee felt it incumbent upon itself to champion the cause of the Bengal detenus. In

February questions were asked in the Legislative Assembly regarding the number of persons detained in jails and camps under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, while articles appeared in the Congress Press suggesting that the reduction in the number of terrorist outrages should be followed by a revision of Government's policy in respect of detention without trial, and that the occasion of the Silver Jubilee should be signalled by a general release of detenus. It was arranged in April that May 19th should be celebrated throughout India as "Detenu Day"; and a committee of Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly, with Mr. Mohanlal Saxena, as its Chairman, was appointed "to enquire and report upon the administration of repressive laws" in this Province. Whatever may have happened in other parts of India, the celebration of "Detenu Day" fell completely flat in Bengal. Recognizing the dangers inherent in an agitation of this nature, Government decided that any publicity given to the cause of persons detained because of their connection with terrorists, a connection established in each case after an independent and most careful examination of the facts, must inevitably stimulate and encourage the supporters of terrorism. It was felt, also, that any widely advertised expression of sympathy with the detenus, however genuine might be the feelings by which it was prompted, must react unfavourably upon the efforts being made to eradicate the disease of terrorism from the body politic. Accordingly an order was issued on 17th May under section 2A, Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, forbidding the publication of any information either regarding the observance of "Detenu Day" or regarding other similar attempts to excite sympathy for those detained under the Bengal State Prisoners Regulations of 1818 and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1930. On the same date a communique explaining the reasons for the order was issued to the Press. The effect of this action was immediate; and although the holding of meetings had not been prohibited, the actual celebrations on May 19th were a complete fiasco throughout the Province. The principal gathering arranged at the Albert Hall, Calcutta, was poorly attended; Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Mayor, who was expected to preside, had urgent business at Krishnagar; the collections made were insignificant; and the meeting itself degenerated into a Communist rally, which broke up in confusion at the appearance of the Police. The Nationalist Press waxed indignant over the "high-handed" behaviour of Government in this connection, and indulged in the puerile gesture of suspending publication on May 21st by way of protest. The province, however, remained quite unexcited by these antics, and the sponsors of "Detenu Day" can look back upon it with little save discomfiture and mortification.

Saxena Committee of Enquiry.

22. Mr. Saxena's Committee met with even less success. On April 22nd it issued a lengthy questionnaire to various organizations and persons in Bengal, asking for information concerning the administration of "repressive" laws. The very wording of this circular showed that the Committee had not approached the subject matter of the enquiry with an open mind. Correspondents were asked, among other questions, to suggest methods of alleviating "the present hardships of detenus and their families", to describe the "inconvenience and harrassment caused by searches", to enumerate any "humiliating orders requiring individuals to report at police-stations", and to "give instances of repression and hardship, if any, caused to the public" as a result of "Military marches". The replies elicited would appear to have been inadequate and unsatisfactory, for the Committee decided to explore other avenues. On 13th June Mr. Saxena wrote to the Government of Bengal, inviting it to "place its case" before the Committee, which would welcome its co-operation. He was informed in reply that Government would not countenance proceedings which to all appearances were prompted by a spirit of antagonism, not to terrorism, but to itself. Mr. Saxena expressed surprise at this answer and a hope that it was not final. He was advised that his hopes were vain, and was permitted to publish the correspondence which had passed between himself and the Chief Secretary. Having done so, he arrived almost alone in Calcutta on 7th July. His reception was poor, and the interest displayed in his enquiry was luke-warm. He arranged to commence his tour by a visit to Tipperah, but on reaching Chandpur on 12th July, he was served with an order prohibiting him from entering the district. He thereupon returned to Calcutta, and after ascertaining that he would not be permitted to visit certain other districts, he left Bengal on 15th July. The refusal of the Government of Bengal to submit its case to the scrutiny of a self-constituted Committee of Congress parliamentarians, not appointed by the Legislative Assembly and lacking any constitutional authority, needs no justification; and the suggestion that Government should have recognized the right of a political party to investigate and sit in judgment upon official policy, was remarkable, not merely for its effrontery, but also for its curious ignorance of the first principles of constitutional practice.

Government Policy.

23. While Congress politicians were indulging in these misguided efforts to secure a general release of all detenus and to excite sympathy on their behalf, irrespective of the merits or demerits of individuals, and cheerfully oblivious of the public danger involved by the proposal to flood the Province with potential anarchists, Government began to develop a policy calculated to wean the majority of those detained from their mistaken leanings

towards terrorism and to convert them into useful members of the State. The reference to a proposal for the training of detenus made by His Excellency the Governor at the Police Parade at Dacca in July has already been mentioned, and on 28th August, when proroguing the Legislative Council, His Excellency elaborated the details of this scheme. He stated that, in view of the progress made during the preceding six months, Government had decided to take the risk of ameliorative measures, subject to proper safeguards, and that it intended to give to certain selected detenus, at the expense of the State, training in fruit-framing, kitchen gardening and other forms of agriculture, as well as in certain types of industrial work. The success of the experiment would depend upon the detenus themselves, and those selected would be released at the end of the training period, provided that their conduct and general attitude were found to be satisfactory. His Excellency further explained that the essence of the scheme was the making of a determined effort to solve the problem of rehabilitating the detenus in the normal life of the community, and incidentally to strike at the same time a hammer blow at the problem of general unemployment; and in this connection he emphasized the fact that the benefits of the scheme would accrue, not merely to the detenus concerned, but also to the community as a whole. In pursuance of these objectives, arrangements were being made at the close of the year to start an agricultural training centre for 25 detenus on 500 bighas of land in the 24-Parganas district, two industrial camps in the same district for the training of 15 detenus each in bell-metal and cutlery making, and two more industrial camps in another area, each for the instruction of 15 detenus in pottery and umbrella-making. It was expected that these camps would be opened in January 1936, and that similar training centres would be organized elsewhere; and the results of this novel and possibly far reaching experiment will be watched with very great interest. At the same time the necessity for the continuance of every form of anti-terrorist action cannot be too strongly emphasized. The events of the year showed that the main onrush of the terrorist attack, which began in 1930, has been broken; but the history of the movement also shows that it always comes in waves, and that if one wave is neglected, the next is more extensive and more violent. There still remain in the Province materials for the resuscitation of terrorist activity, and potential leaders who are merely awaiting a favourable opportunity. The response of public opinion to the efforts made by Government has been encouraging during the last two years, but vigilance cannot yet be relaxed, and unremitting search must still continue for the secret organizers and hidden apparatus of mischief. It is the intention of the Government of Bengal to pursue that search with unswerving determination.

The Press.

24. The general tone of the Press during the year was similar to that of 1934, and although the improvement noticed in last year's Report was maintained and there was a considerable hardening of opinion against terrorism, the attitude of hostility towards Governments still persisted in a considerable degree. At the beginning of the year there was strong criticism of the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the India Bill, and the Bill itself came in for steady attack while passing through Parliament. The financial proposals of the Bengal Government were also condemned on the ground that new taxation could not be justified, and while the Development Bill was generally welcomed, it was suggested that the Government of India's grant of money for rural reconstruction only resulted from the activities of Mr. Gandhi's Village Industries Association. The reprieve granted to one of the would-be assassins of His Excellency the Governor was welcomed with the suggestion that it would do more to check terrorism than any number of repressive laws; but the action taken by Government against various Communist associations in Calcutta aroused considerable hostile comment. Sarcastic reference were made in April to the publication by the *Morning Post* of a confidential circular of the Bengal I. C. S. Association. The unfortunate pandering of the Press to communal antagonism has already been referred to, and it was particularly noticeable in connection with the firing at Karachi and the rioting at Ferozabad. The attitude of Nationalist newspapers towards the Silver Jubilee celebrations in May cannot be described as anything more than lukewarm, and although some of them published Jubilee issues and loyal greetings, there was a tendency to indulge in somewhat undignified criticism of the various arrangements that were made. The demand of security from the newspaper *Bande Mataram* as a result of a scurrilous article against His Majesty, even evoked some sympathy, and comments were made upon the risks to which the Press was exposed under the present law. It is satisfactory to note that *Bande Mataram* subsequently repudiated the sentiments expressed in the offending article, and later wrote in appreciation of the place occupied by His Majesty in the constitution. Despite considerable interest and general appeals for funds in connection wtih the Quetta earthquake disaster, there was much grumbling over the restrictions imposed upon the entry of volunteers into the devastated area, and the decision to refuse admission to non-officials was criticized as likely to create public suspicion and resentment. The interest aroused by the passage of the India Bill through the House of Lords was soon overshadowed by the communal feelings excited by the Sahidganj mosque dispute at Lahore; and bitter opposition was expressed against the renewal of the Public Security Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The

debates in the Legislative Assembly over the latter measure were fully reported, and its certification by His Excellency the Viceroy was viewed with marked disfavour. Much interest was evinced in the distress caused by the Damodar floods, and there were occasional appreciations of official relief measures. With the placing of the Government of India Act upon the statute book, interest in home politics centred on the question of the acceptance of office under the new constitution, and a considerable volume of opinion in unexpected quarters appeared to favour the working of the Reforms. The war in Abyssinia aroused much genuine sympathy for the Emperor Haile Selassie and his people, but it was freely suggested that the part played by Great Britain, in support of the League of Nations and in the enforcement of Sanctions against Italy, was dictated by considerations of selfish imperialism and not by philanthropic motives. There was a general tendency to decry the efforts of the League, but on the other hand the Franco-British proposals for a settlement of the dispute were severely censured, and the subsequent resignation of Sir Samuel Hoare, the Foreign Secretary, was declared to have been inevitable. At the close of the year the main topics of discussion were the communal dispute in the Calcutta Corporation, the question of acceptance of office by the Congress under the new constitution, the celebration of the Congress Golden Jubilee and the impending financial inquiry by Sir Otto Niemeyar; and the Bengal Press was unanimous in its support of His Excellency the Governor's appeal for financial justice to Bengal in the next settlement between the Centre and the Provinces. During the year 47 warnings were conveyed to newspapers by the Press Officer, and security was demanded from four presses and five papers, while the securities of one press and one newspaper were forfeited.

Government publicity : Cinema parties.

25. As in previous years, the publicity activities of Government were directed during 1935 towards the education of public opinion in matters relating to politics, health and economics; and the same methods were employed as formerly, with such developments as experience had proved useful. Twelve peripatetic cinema parties, each equipped with films on agriculture, industries, public health and other subjects of interest, toured throughout the Province during the year; and as many as 1,426 centres were visited, while nearly two million adults of both sexes attended the shows that were given. In order to make these more attractive, new films were prepared, and arrangements were made to provide the parties with loud-speakers and gramophones, while for the benefit of the illiterate, the films and the lessons conveyed thereby were explained by official and non-official speakers. In order to reduce the cost of making films and to improve the lighting arrangements, it was decided gradually to replace the existing

35 mm. outfits by 16 mm. ones, and to equip each party with a small portable dynamo-engine for generating the power required. There was complete unanimity of opinion as to the efficiency of this form of publicity in furthering the progress of rural uplift, and the work of the cinema parties was unquestionably of great value.

Publicity Van.

26. In the cold weather of 1934-35 Government hired a Publicity Van and fitted it with models, charts and exhibits. It made a tour of 1,500 miles, and gave shows which were attended by 210,000 persons; and it also formed the nucleus of many local exhibitions arranged in connection with its visits. The tour proved so successful that Government decided during the year under review to have a Van of its own, and one was accordingly purchased and fitted to meet requirements. This Van is a moving exhibition in miniature. It has been so designed that, when the sides are removed, they reveal various models of industrial, agricultural and public health subjects, while the sides themselves, on being opened out, disclose a number of charts affixed both to them and to collapsible frames, which can be immediately placed in position. Inside the Van there is a film projector, a magic lantern and an amplifier; while power is supplied by a generating plant controlled from a switch-board by the lecturer, who speaks into a microphone, and whose voice is amplified by two loud speakers placed among the audience. When there is no lecture in progress, gramophone records are played, and the music is amplified; while at night two flood-lights and other light points are utilized to illuminate the exhibition with some brilliance. The construction of this Van was completed in May, 1935, and it then left Calcutta for Midnapore, in which district it made a tour for two and a half months, covering 1,200 miles and visiting as many as 34 centres in the interior. Its visits were timed to synchronize with local fairs and specially arranged exhibitions, and the combination of amusement and instruction which it provided, proved a great attraction everywhere. Information on matters of particular importance to the rural population, such as health, hygiene, agriculture, cottage industries and co-operation, was conveyed in this way to nearly 100,000 people, and a trained lecturer accompanied the Van to explain to the audiences the meaning and significance of the various charts and posters. The Van started out on a fresh itinerary in the Presidency Division at the beginning of November, and was still on tour at the close of the year.

Other methods.

27. The arrangement made in 1934 to broadcast talks on political, economic and educational subjects twice a week from the

Indian State Broadcasting Station, Calcutta, was continued during the year under review; and in order to give these talks wider publicity, arrangements were made to publish them promptly in the newspapers. The issue of Press Notes, which was introduced towards the end of 1934, was also continued, and during the year 21 such notes, giving details of the activities of Government in various spheres, were issued to the Press. On account of their news value, they found favour with almost all the papers in the Province. With the object of countering mischievous propaganda and of securing a fair hearing for the Government's case numerous pamphlets dealing with a variety of questions were also issued, and during the year 136,560 copies of leaflets covering 26 different subjects were distributed throughout the Province.

## (2) Economic Review.

Scarcity and flood.

28. Although there was evidence during 1935 that the economic depression of recent years was lifting and that a return to more normal conditions might reasonably be expected in the near future, the economic condition of large sections of the population showed few signs of improvement during the year under review, and that of agriculturists definitely deteriorated in certain parts of the Province. This was particularly the case in West Bengal. At the beginning of the year an improvement in prices permitted the closing down of two out of the four test relief operations in Murshidabad district, but the position of cultivators was bad in certain portions of the Burdwan Division. In March test relief works were being fully attended in Birbhum and Bankura districts, and the weaver community in the latter was particularly affected. Towards the end of the same month simliar test relief operations had to be commenced in Midnapore, but these were closed in April, when a slight general improvement throughout the Province was evidenced by a rapid decline in the numbers attending the Murshidabad relief works and by increased collections of revenue in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions. Owing to prolonged drought, agricultural loans were distributed in Rangpur in May; but once again the advent of the rains improved the situation. A rise in jute prices reacted upon collections, and at the revenue sales in Chittagong, Government had to purchase only two estates, as compared with thirty-five in 1934, while 584 estates out of 671 advertized for sale secured exemption on full payment of arrears. Generally speaking, however, the rains were deficient

in quantity, and at the beginning of August this led to the appearance in the districts of Birbhum, Burdwan and Hooghly of what the Nationalist Press described as "Hunger Marchers". In actual fact these consisted in most instances of little more than deputations of cultivators applying for relief. In the middle of August the position in the Burdwan Division underwent a sudden change. Heavy local rainfall, and a phenomenally rapid rise in the level of the Damodar river as the result of rainstorms in the Chota Nagpur hills, caused serious floods in the adjacent areas of Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly and Midnapore districts. The town of Burdwan was for a time under several feet of water; there were six feet of water on portions of the Grand Trunk Road; the electric supply was cut off; the Civil Courts had to be closed; and considerable damage was done to private houses. An area of 200 square miles in Burdwan, 140 square miles in Bankura and 350 square miles in Hooghly was inundated, while 40 square miles of country in the Tamluk and Ghatal subdivisions of Midnapore district were partially submerged. No appreciable damage was done in Birbhum, despite a small flooding of the Ajoy river; and the Damodar flood level fell before there were any serious results in Howrah. The water, however, reached the well-known temple at Tarakeswar in Hooghly district, and for a time fears were entertained for its safety. The principal damage in the affected areas was confined to huts and *kutcha* houses, of which approximately 2,500 were destroyed in Hooghly district, 8,700 in Bankura and 19,250 in Burdwan. Fortunately food stocks were not seriously damaged, and in some places the flood water facilitated the transplantation of paddy. After the first few days the situation gradually returned to normal. The flood level fell rapidly, and energetic action by local officers and charitable organizations prevented any serious catastrophe in the form of either starvation or epidemics. Arrangements were made to distribute Rs. 7,000 in Hooghly, Rs. 6,000 in Bankura and Rs. 22,000 in Burdwan as gratuitous relief, mainly for the rebuilding of houses, and in each case Government provided approximately half the amount sanctioned, the remainder being found by the District Board concerned. Unfortunately the Damodar flood could not compensate for the continued lack of rain. While conditions in East Bengal towards the end of the year were reasonably good, the failure of crops in West Bengal continued to cause anxiety, and the position of agriculturists in the Burdwan Division became a matter of grave concern in November and December. As a result of a conference of District Magistrates called by the Divisional Commissioner at Chinsura and attended by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, a programme of relief measures was drawn up in the expectation that acute

scarcity might develop in several districts during the early months of 1936. Government also decided to appoint an Additional Commissioner for the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, with a view to co-ordinating relief operations in the affected areas.

Praja and Krishak Samities.

29. The growth of Praja and Krishak Samities, which was noticed in the Report for the first time in 1933, is the direct result of the economic difficulties of recent years; and in view of the continuance of low prices, it is not surprising that the activities of these associations of cultivators were a marked feature of the year under review. They flourished mainly in East Bengal, and were particularly vocal in the districts of Noakhali, Tippera, Dacca, Mymensingh, Pabna and Bogra, but reports of their activities were also received from Bakarganj, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Murshidabad. In the majority of cases the primary object of these organizations is the amelioration of the lot of the cultivator by means of concerted action, mainly in respect of debts, but sometimes also in respect of rent; and at present the usual methods employed are the holding of meetings, the passing of resolutions, the capture of seats on Local Boards with the object of influencing the District Boards, and the submission of representations to Government, frequently in connection with proposed economic legislation. So far there has been little co-ordination of effort between individual Samities, and although from time to time attempts have been made by Congress workers and Communist agents to organise the associations on a wider political basis, little real progress has been achieved in this direction. A disturbing feature of the year, however, was the tendency of the movement to develop along communal lines, and this is largely due to the fact that the great majority of villagers in East and North Bengal are Muhammadans, whereas the bulk of the landlords and *mahajans* are Hindus. A number of incidents which occurred during the year illustrated the extent of the growth of these Samities and the lines of action which they adopted. An order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, had to be issued in January in respect of a local leader in Noakhali district, whose activities were likely to result in disturbances; and Krishak Samity influence ousted most of the sitting members at the Local Board elections held there during that month. Although the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture opened the All-Bengal Praja Conference at Mymensingh, which was attended by 5,000 persons, not a few of the speeches delivered both there and at the Dacca District Praja Conference at Narayanganj were severely critical of Government. About the same time a Santhal leader in Malda district was reported to have developed Communist tendencies, and in March Krishak Samities in the Tangail subdivision of Mymensingh were found to be advocating the abolition

of the "*borga*" system of cultivation. An attempt to start a no-rent campaign came to light in Rangpur, and several cases of arson in Noakhali district necessitated preventive action under the Criminal Procedure Code in respect of a Krishak Samity member, who had recently secured election to the Local Board. A Praja Conference was held at Serajganj in March, and the Samities took a keen interest in the Local Board elections of Tippera district in April. A Raiyats' Conference held at Dinajpur in June was attended by 3,000 people, and demands were put forward for easy terms of payment in respect of rent and debts, and for the exemption of agricultural implements and seeds from attachment in execution of decrees obtained by landlords and money-lenders. The complicity of Praja and Krishak Samity members was believed to have been established in a serious dacoity committed in Noakhali district in August by a band of nearly 100 armed men, who looted the houses of Hindu *mahajans* and the shops of Hindu tradesmen in Chattarpaiya Bazar. Action had to be taken in Tangail in October against a local Muhammadan leader, who delivered speeches inciting cultivators to oppose money-lenders and landlords. At Bajitpur in Mymensingh district an association formed by *mahajani* and *zemindari* interests to oppose the Bengal Relief of Rural Indebtedness Bill was countered by an organization of the Tenants' Party, which favoured the Bill and proposed to capture the Local Board in order to give vent to its views. Praja and Krishak Samities appear to have come to stay in Bengal, and their subsequent development will be watched with considerable interest and not a little anxiety. As vehicles for the expression of the cultivator's opinion in respect of those aspects of rural economics which most nearly affect him, they may well prove of great value. The danger lies in their diversion towards purely communal or communist objectives.

Board of Economic Enquiry.

30. The appointment of a Board of Economic Enquiry was mentioned in the Report for 1933, and its initial activities were described in the Report for 1934. During 1935 the Board continued to investigate various avenues which it was hoped might lead to the economic rehabilitation of the Province, and the principal fruit of its labours was the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act, which will be referred to subsequently. In addition to the investigations which resulted in this important statute, the Board conducted a number of other enquiries, the most interesting of which was a survey of the Weaving Industry in this Province. Bengal still occupies a prominent place in the hand-loom industry, and in order to collect sufficient and reliable data for an improvement in the prospects of this trade, the Board undertook a "sample" survey on the scientific lines advocated by Dr. Bowley

and Professor Robertson, the eminent economists who visited India in 1934. A comprehensive questionnaire was drawn up with the object of obtaining complete information regarding the land, income, expenditure, profit, tools, quality and cost of yarn, quality of finished products, prices, credit and marketing facilities of families engaged in weaving; and it was proposed to survey the economic life of other villagers at the same time, for purposes of check and comparison. It was further proposed that this survey should be made by University students, who would receive preliminary training in the Serampore Weaving School and the Statistical Laboratory of the Presidency College; and it was expected that their work would not only supply a useful body of information regarding the position of those engaged in the weaving industry, but would also indirectly further a mutual understanding between student investigators and local executive officers.

**Other enquiries.**

31. Consolidation of small agricultural holdings was another subject that was dealt with by the Board during the year under review. The complicated land system of Bengal, with its excessive subinfeudation and the partition of the majority of villages among numerous interests, aggravates the fragmentation of holdings brought about by the laws of inheritance. The Board made enquiries into the legislation and schemes in operation in the Central Provinces and the Punjab, and also studied the reports of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland, which were made available by the personal intervention of His Excellency the Governor. It must be admitted, however, that at the close of the year, owing to the enormous difficulties involved, the majority of the members of the Board entertained few hopes of the possibility of evolving a practical scheme of consolidation for Bengal. The Board also considered the possibility of extending the scope of bamboo cultivation, especially in waste and uncultivated lands, with the object of meeting the increased demand for bamboo pulp for paper mills both in India and abroad; and at the instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in India, it carried out a preliminary enquiry into the bone mill industry in this Province. A memorandum dealing with the activities of the Agricultural, Industries and Co-operative Departments of Government during the last quinquennium was also prepared, and the Director of Agriculture was asked to draw up a statement regarding the activities of his department in connection with the extension and improvement of the cottage industry of manufacturing sugar from cane and date palms. Bulletins dealing with the economic conditions prevailing in Bankura, Pabna and Faridpur districts were issued by the Board during

the year, and the Secretary to the Board broadcast interesting talks on Agricultural Indebtedness in Bengal and the economic life of the district of Bankura.

Jute restriction.

32. Government's policy of attempting to raise the price of jute to an economic level by restricting the area under jute cultivation was described in last year's report, and it continued to be followed in 1935. It was decided in January that there should be a restriction to the extent of five annas, to be followed by restriction of approximately three annas in the following year, and during the early months of the year extensive propaganda under the direction of the Rural Development Commissioner was carried on in the jute growing districts. Efforts were made to persuade the cultivator of the importance and probable benefits of a reduction, and also of the possibilities of raising substitute crops such as sugar-cane. In February the Hon'ble Member in charge of Irrigation and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education toured the Rajshahi Division in this connection, while the latter and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture visited the Dacca Division. At Gaffargaon in Mymensingh district the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture addressed an audience of 30,000 persons, while the attendance at the eleven meetings addressed by the Hon'ble Minister for Education was over 150,000. In June Government issued a communique stating that favourable results were expected from the propaganda that was in progress. Restriction was aided in some areas by a shortage of rain, and in July there was a distinct rise in jute prices. The full extent of a five annas reduction, however, was not achieved, and calculations regarding the probable carry-over of jute stocks from the previous year proved to be erroneous, for at the beginning of the season no less than ten lakhs of bales in excess of normal were released on the Calcutta jute market. Up till July, on the other hand, prices remained reasonably high, and although at the time of harvest a threat by certain mills to return to the practice of unrestricted competition caused prices to fall, a subsequent rise in October demonstrated the resilience of the jute market with a restricted crop. At the end of July Government announced that the experiment of restriction would be repeated along similar lines in 1936, and in September it was decided that the next restriction should be to the extent of one-third of the area under jute in 1934. Fears were expressed in certain quarters that cultivators would seek to take advantage of a rise in prices by increasing the area under jute cultivation, or that in the alternative, if prices failed to attain the expected level, they would be unwilling to repeat an experiment which had not achieved the anticipated measure of success. The results obtained

were, however, sufficiently encouraging to justify the attempt to reduce the surplus stocks to the full extent originally aimed at, by securing a real five annas reduction, and it is hoped that the experience gained during the year will ensure the attainment of that objective in 1936.

**Bengal Development Act.**

33. The possibility of financing irrigation and improvement schemes by means of a cess or levy, with the object of developing the decadent areas of the Province, was also enquired into by the Rural Development Commissioner. Agricultural improvement on a large scale in Bengal depends chiefly upon adequate irrigation and drainage, and it was pointed out by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India that the irrigation problems awaiting solution in this Province are complex in the extreme. Progress has hitherto been restricted by lack of money for capital expenditure, and by the difficulty of ensuring that the returns from schemes of any magnitude would be sufficient to finance them adequately. The underlying principle of the Development Act, which resulted from the Rural Development Commissioner's investigations, is that when the productive power of land has been improved at the expense of Government, Government itself should be allowed to recover for the public benefit a share of the increase, just as, when an improvement has been effected at the expense of a landlord, the landlord can recover a share of the increase in the form of enhanced rent. The Act empowers Government to impose a levy in respect of agricultural lands, the produce outturn of which has been or is likely to be increased by an improvement work; and it is provided that the rate to be fixed shall not exceed one-half of the estimated net increase in the profits or one-half of the net value of the estimated increase in outturn. It further provides that the approval of the legislature should be obtained before any work to be financed under this Act is taken up. This was an important measure, and despite the limitations imposed by the Bengal Legislative Council upon the operation of the Act in respect of the existing Eden, Damodar and Bakreswar canals, its application is expected to extend considerably the scope of Government's activities in decadent areas.

**Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act.**

34. In 1934, as a result of strained feelings between creditors and debtors, and in consequence of various outbreaks of disturbance by members of Krishak and Praja Samities, an interesting experiment for the settlement of debts by means of Debt Arbitration Boards was started in the Chandpur subdivision of Tipperah district through the initiative of the Subdivisional Officer. The scheme met with success, and its operation was extended during the year under review, until there were 40 such Boards working on

a purely voluntary basis in various parts of the subdivision. These Boards were able to secure settlements between creditors and debtors on a very considerable scale, and their strength lay in the fact that they contained representatives of both parties, in the simple and informal manner of their discussions, and in the necessity of securing a unanimous agreement in every case. This very laudable experiment greatly strengthened the case for legislation to empower Government to set up similar Boards wherever necessary and upon a properly legalised basis. The Board of Economic Enquiry, which had been investigating along similar lines, prepared a draft Bill, on the basis of which, but with important modifications, a Bill was introduced by Government at the August session of the Legislative Council. This was referred to a Select Committee, and after a lengthy debate was finally passed in the middle of December. The Agricultural Debtors' Act empowers Government to appoint Debt Settlement Boards in any area in Bengal, and these Boards are authorized to deal with applications from debtors for the settlement of their debts, and to make every endeavour to induce debtors and creditors to arrive at amicable agreements. The main object of the Act is the amicable settlement of the whole or a part of the debts in respect of which applications are made. If however no settlement can be effected, Boards especially empowered may, if the debtor's offer is considered reasonable, grant him a certificate to that effect; and thereafter his creditor is debarred from obtaining in any Civil Court, either the costs of a suit to realize the debt, or more than 6 per cent. simple interest on the debt itself from the date of the certificate. Boards especially empowered, if satisfied that an applicant's debts cannot be reduced so as to be repayable in twenty years, may also declare him insolvent, and may then either reduce his debts to an amount payable within that period, or direct the disposal of a portion of his assets towards liquidation of his debts. The Act does not, as suggested by its opponents, expropriate the rights of creditors, or jeopardize the security of landlords; for it provides in practice for the substitution of a good debt for a bad one, and care has been taken to ensure that its provisions should not be used to force landlords to agree to a reduction of arrears of rent. In view of the results achieved in Chandpur, it is hoped that this measure will go some way towards lightening the burden of agricultural indebtedness, which constitutes the principal stumbling-block to any permanent solution of rural economic problems in Bengal.

Bengal Water-Hyacinth Bill.

35. The problems presented by the presence of water hyacinth in many parts of the Province, and more particularly in East Bengal, have never been successfully dealt with on any extensive

scale; and the gradual growth and spreading of this weed has resulted in the blocking of many navigable channels and in considerable damage to crops in riverine areas. The possibility of its eradication was examined during the period 1925-28, and it was decided that the estimated cost of Rs. 5 crores for a scheme embracing the whole Province placed the scheme outside the range of practical politics. Subsequently, however, the success which attended the efforts of Mr. Peck, the Collector of Cuttack, in ridding that district of water-hyacinth during the years 1929 and 1930, demonstrated the possibilities of utilizing unpaid manual labour as an organized method of attack. In 1934 the example of Mr. Peck was followed with excellent results by the Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria in Tipperah district, with the result that this large subdivision was kept almost entirely clear of water-hyacinth during the year under review. The policy adopted was one of stimulating local interest in the necessity for the plant's destruction, and of organizing by means of propaganda and example its removal from ditches, *khals* and *bhils*; and work on similar lines was carried on through the initiative and resource of local officers and with similarly encouraging results in the Sadar and Chandpur subdivisions of Tipperah, in the Sadar and Gopalganj subdivisions of Faridpur, and in parts of the district of Rajshahi. During his visits to Rajshahi and Pabna in August, His Excellency the Governor outlined the history of what had been done in this connection, and announced that the whole question of the eradication of water-hyacinth was again under the consideration of Government. All the districts of the Province were circularized by the Rural Development Commissioner for information regarding local conditions, and a large mass of interesting data was accumulated. The nuisance of water-hyacinth can at present be dealt with under the Bengal Waterways Act and the Bengal Municipal Act, which specifically mention it, as well as under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act and the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, which do not; but none of these measures provides a feasible and cheap method of combating its ravages on any large scale. In view of the great importance of the problem, and as a result of the experiments and enquiries made, Government introduced the Bengal Water-Hyacinth Bill in the December session of the Bengal Legislative Council. This Bill, which was circulated for opinion, prohibits the importation, sale, growth, or removal of water-hyacinth except for purposes of destruction; and empowers the Local Government to declare as an offence its continued existence in any specified area. The Bill further empowers District Officers to take steps for the destruction of water-hyacinth in default of its removal by the local inhabitants; and provides for continuity of action as a backing to

voluntary efforts. It is expected that a wide application of these powers will very considerably reduce the extent of the plant's menace to navigable channels and adjacent fields in the areas most affected.

Land Mortgage Banks.

36. The establishment by Government at Mymensingh, Pabna and Comilla of three Land Mortgage Banks, operating along co-operative lines, was referred to in last year's Report. In January 1935, a fourth Bank was opened at Jessore, and in February a fifth was started in Birbhum district. In order to provide adequate working capital for these Banks, Government sanctioned in June the issue at par of Rs. 12½ lakhs of debentures, current for a period not exceeding thirty years. Government further agreed to guarantee the interest for the entire period of currency, and to fix the rate of interest annually; and it was decided that the maximum interest on debentures issued during the next twelve months should be 4¾ per cent. Up till the end of June 1935, the Banks had received 1,600 applications for loans totalling nearly Rs. 4 lakhs, and of these, 266 applications for a total amount of slightly more than Rs. 1 lakh had been accepted, the loans actually issued representing 27 per cent. of the estimated value of the property offered as security. The loans advanced were mainly for the redemption of prior debts and the payment of arrear rent and cess; and it was estimated that the Banks had succeeded in scaling down the original debts of applicants by nearly 40 per cent. The attitude of zemindars towards these Banks was sympathetic during the year, and while money-lenders were generally somewhat indifferent towards them, the public's realization of their usefulness resulted in a demand for an increase in their number. Certain difficulties have been encountered in connection with enquiries into the assets and liabilities of applicants, and applicants themselves often find difficulty in persuading all those interested in particular holdings to join with them in execution of the necessary mortgage deeds. Some trouble has also been experienced in the production of sureties. Despite these drawbacks, however, the work of the Banks has been encouraging, and it is hoped that, with the passing of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act, there will be an increase both in the volume of their business and in the general appreciation of their utility.

Demonstration parties.

37. The formation of 28 demonstration parties by the Department of Industries, in pursuance of Government's policy of showing the way towards the regeneration of Bengal's smaller industries and at the same time of relieving middle class unemployment, was described in last year's Report. During the year under review these parties continued their work in connection with soap-making, pottery, umbrella-making, the brass and bell-metal

industry, weaving, cutlery-making, and boot and shoe manufacture. Three batches of students were trained in soap-making in Calcutta, and others in the districts, and as a result of the activities of the demonstration parties, a number of small soap factories were established throughout the Province. The umbrella-making industry continued to thrive, and 35 students trained by the demonstration parties started workshops of their own, while 19 others found employment in existing factories. The demonstration parties went some way towards revitalizing the pottery industry by introducing a new type of kiln, an improved quality of glaze, and new designs. Goods made according to samples supplied by a Calcutta organization known as "The Good Companions" were greatly appreciated and promised to open up a new line of readily marketable wares. Fourteen factories were started to produce the pottery types introduced by the Department, and 18 students were absorbed in existing factories during the year. Two batches of students completed their training in the brass and bell-metal industry, 9 started factories of their own, and 7 found employment in existing businesses. The cutlery industry attracted young men in increasing numbers, and about a dozen persons trained by the demonstration parties opened their own workshops for the manufacture of cutlery articles. Considerable attention was paid to handloom weaving, in connection with which Government maintains, not only the Weaving Institute at Serampore, but also 9 District Weaving Schools and 27 peripatetic weaving parties. The Industries Department organized 5 more parties for demonstration purposes, one of which specialized in dyeing processes, and they were all in very considerable demand. The dyeing party trained 63 new recruits and enabled 17 young men to establish dyeing and printing businesses in the districts of Midnapore and Birbhum; and in all 229 students received training from these weaving parties. Training in boot and shoe manufacture was also popular, and of 55 young men fully trained by the demonstration parties, 17 were known to have secured work either on their own or in existing shops. It can be said with confidence that the work done by these various demonstration parties was of very great value to the revival of decaying cottage industries and the relief of unemployment amongst the *bhadralok* class.

Rural uplift grant.

38. Out of the grant voted by the Legislative Assembly for rural uplift, the Government of India allotted the sum of Rs. 16 lakhs for use in Bengal. Of this amount, the Local Government proposed to utilize through the Agricultural Department approximately Rs. 2¾ lakhs for the establishment of seed, paddy and crop demonstration centres, and for the improvement of cattle, fodder

and poultry; while about Rs. 1 lakh was earmarked for expenditure by the Co-operative Department on the improved marketing of jute and paddy, and the establishment of coir spinning and weaving demonstration parties. The Local Self-Government Department received nearly Rs. 4 lakhs for the establishment of union board dispensaries and the improvement of water supplies in rural areas; and about Rs. 3 lakhs were allotted to the Irrigation Department for minor drainage and flushing schemes. Rupees 2 lakhs were set apart for the introduction by the Education Department into secondary schools of agricultural and manual training, for the provision of school and village playgrounds and village libraries and halls in rural areas, and for grants-in-aid of the Boy Scout, Girl Guide and *Bratachari* movements. Over Rs. 1 lakh was assigned for propaganda work in the districts, and more than Rs. 2 lakhs was placed in the hands of Divisional Commissioners and District Officers in the form of discretionary grants; while Rs. 30,000 was allocated for improvements in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The proposals for the distribution of this money met with some uninformed criticism in certain quarters, but they were based upon a careful consideration of the needs of the Province, and it was expected that the sums allotted to the various departments would result in real progress being made during the following year in the campaign for rural reconstruction in Bengal.

## (3) Legislative Review.

Sessions.

39. The life of the Bengal Legislative Council, which was due to expire at the end of June 1935, was extended for one year with effect from the 28th June. During the year under review the grouping of parties remained unaltered. Three sessions were held, the first from 11th February to 9th April, the second from 29th July to 28th August, and the third from 25th November to 20th December. The Council actually sat for 76 days, and the year constituted a record both for the number of sittings and for the volume of legislation. His Excellency the Governor addressed the House on 11th February and 28th August, and on the latter date himself prorogued the Council after explaining the proposals of Government for the agricultural and industrial training of detenus. In the course of the year the felicitations of the Council were conveyed through His Excellency to Their Majesties the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress on the occasion of their Silver Jubilee, and to the Right Hon'ble the Marquess of Zetland, a former Governor of Bengal, on his appointment to the office of Secretary of State for India.

Acts.

40. During the year under review 22 Acts were passed, 12 of which, the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act, the Court-Fees (Bengal Amendment) Act, the Estates Partition (Amendment) Act, the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts (Bengal Amendment) Act, the Bengal Land Revenue (Interest) Act, the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, the Bengal Wakf (Amendment) Act, the Bengal Land Registration (Amendment) Act, the Calcutta Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, the Court-Fees (Bengal Third Amendment) Act, the Howrah Bridge (Amendment) Act, and the Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, sought either to remove anomalies and clarify uncertainties in existing statutes or to extend the powers of local bodies. Five other Acts, the Bengal Electricity Duty Act, the Bengal Tobacco (Sales Licensing) Act, the Bengal Court-Fees (Second Amendment) Act, the Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Act, and the Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Act, provided for the raising of additional revenue by means of surcharges or the levy or enhancement of certain fees. The Albert Victor Leper Hospital Act created for this Hospital a trust fund analogous to that of the European Mental Hospital at Ranchi; and the Bengal Village Self-Government (Temporary Provisions) Act validated certain elections and appointments made prior to the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act referred to above. The three most important Acts passed during the year were, the Bengal Public Security (Extending) Act, the Bengal Development Act and the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act. The first of these extended the life of the parent Act, which was due to expire on 31st December 1935; the second empowered Government to impose a levy in respect of agricultural lands benefited by works of improvement executed by Government itself; and the third authorized Government to appoint Boards for the settlement of agricultural indebtedness. The two latter Acts have already been discussed in detail.

Bills.

41. At the close of the year two Government Bills were pending. The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, to remove certain anomalies and difficulties in the working of the parent Act and to enfranchise carters, to empower the levy of a tax on dogs, and to control fairs and *melas*, was referred to a Select Committee; while the Bengal Water Hyacinth Bill, to provide for the eradication of water-hyacinth, was circulated for opinion. No less than 31 non-official Bills were dealt with by the Council during the year. Four of these were merely introduced; seven others were not proceeded with by their sponsors; and thirteen Bills were rejected on motions to take them into consideration, to circulate them for opinion, or to refer them to Select Committees. The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill by Mr. N. K. Basu was

circulated for opinion; and three Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bills by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill by Mr. Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill by Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta, and the Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill by Mr. P. Banerji, were referred to Select Committees.

Questions.

42. Notices of 796 questions were received during the year, of which 515 were answered, 158 lapsed and 123 were disallowed or withdrawn. Unimportant questions continued to absorb an undue proportion of the time of the Council.

Resolutions.

43. During the year no fewer than 261 resolutions on matters of general public interest were tabled for discussion, but only 14 were taken up by the Council. Ten of these, which recommended action to promote the manufacture of quinine, legislation to fix the minimum price of sugarcane, a special survey of the educational facilities of the Scheduled Castes, the recruitment of Scheduled Caste candidates in Government services, the encouragement of sugarcane cultivation, the abolition of the posts of Assistant Director and Assistant Inspectors of schools for Muhammadan education, the appointment of Agricultural Assistants in each thana, the alteration of the number of Municipal Commissioners, the improvement of the service conditions of typists and copyists in Government offices, and the enforcement in certain districts of a Government circular relating to ministerial appointments, were withdrawn after discussion. Resolutions recommending the remission of certain revenue of temporarily-settled estates, and the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the working of the Co-operative Department, were lost; and two resolutions only, for the establishment of a sanatorium for tuberculous patients, and for the preparation of a scheme and the raising of a loan to fight the scourge of malaria and other diseases, were carried. On 14th and 15th August the Council discussed a special motion by the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Reid, recommending that the proposals of Government in respect of the delimitation of constituencies for the new Provincial Legislature be taken into consideration, and that the proceedings be forwarded to the Indian Delimitation Committee for information. The discussion was concluded by the application of a closure motion. On 22nd August a further discussion took place on a special motion by the Hon'ble Sir John Woodhead concerning the proposed allocation of the sum of Rs. 16 lakhs received from the Government of India for rural reconstruction expenditure. Owing to lack of time several amendments to this resolution could not be dealt with, and the main motion was in consequence talked out. A special resolution recommending that Government's proposals for the qualifications

of electors to the Bengal Legislative Council should be placed before the Council prior to their adoption, fell through in the absence of the consent of the Hon'ble Member concerned. During the year notices were received of 5 motions for the adjournment of the business of the Council. In respect of two motions, to discuss the proposed enhancement of rents in temporarily-settled estates and *khas mahals* in Mymensingh district, and to discuss the economic distress prevailing among agriculturists in the Province, the Hon'ble the President refused his consent, as the motions did not comply with the rules. The sponsors of adjournment motions to discuss the situation created by the floods in Burdwan and by the rejection of certain nomination papers of candidates for election to the Local Boards in Khulna district, accepted the advice of the Hon'ble the President and ventilated their grievances by putting short notice questions. A motion to discuss the situation arising in December out of the resignation of the Mayor and 15 Muhammadan councillors of the Calcutta Corporation was disallowed by His Excellency the Governor.

**Annual Budget grants.**

44. The annual financial statement was presented on 22nd February, and the Budget was discussed on 26th and 27th February. Twelve days were occupied in the voting of grants, and all the demands were granted in full, except in respect of the head "Irrigation," in connection with which a token cut of Rs. 100 was carried by 34 votes to 33, as a protest against the delay in disposing of the departmental dredgers. Of the remaining 76 cut motions, which provided opportunities for discussion on questions of policy and administration, 40 were withdrawn after discussion, 27 were lost without a division, and 9 were defeated by substantial majorities.

**Other grants.**

45. Fifteen supplementary or additional grants were voted by the Council during the year, viz., Rs. 53,500 for registration purposes; Rs. 1,500 for a grant towards the expenses of the Science Congress, which met in Calcutta; Rs. 24,000 for additional help to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution; Rs. 56,000 for superannuation allowances and pensions; Rs. 41,000 for jute restriction propaganda; Rs. 41,347 for the development of sericulture; Rs. 2 lakhs for the purchase and working of 6 Bengali linotype machines in connection with the preparation of preliminary electoral rolls; Rs. 4,320 for textile research; Rs. 85,340 for the improvement of the handloom industry; Rs. 10 lakhs for pension commutation payments; Rs. 12,000 for reconditioning a launch; Rs. 10,000 for ports and pilotage; Rs. 6,000 for the purchase of entertainment tax stamps; Rs. 2 lakhs for repairs to the Anderson weir on the Damodar canal; and Re. 1 as a token grant to make funds available for the conversion into a jail one of the old British infantry barracks at Dum Dum. On 1st December 1935 the Report

of the Bengal Legislative Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1933-34 was presented, and as recommended by the Committee, a grant of Rs. 17,279 was voted by the Council to regularize expenditure incurred in excess of the sanctioned grant in respect of superannuation allowances and pensions for that year.

## (4) Industrial Review.

Industrial disputes.

46. Generally speaking the industrial situation was quiet during the year under review. The strike of Calcutta stevedores' labour, which was described in some detail in the Report for 1933-34, came to an end in December 1934, and work was resumed at the Docks in that month. A Joint Arbitration Committee representing the Steamship Companies, the Master Stevedores and Stevedores' labour reached an agreement on the basis of a reduction of one hour in the working day and an increase of Rs. 1-12 in the daily wages of each gang; and this agreement came into operation at the beginning of January 1935. In February the Calcutta Tramway Workers Union and the employees of the Inland Steamer Companies submitted to the Labour Commissioner protests against certain alleged injustices on the part of their employers, but although temporary stoppages of work of a very minor nature occurred, there was not in either case any general resort to direct action. The Tramway Workers Union did, indeed, threaten a strike for 21st March, but this failed to materialize. In April a Communist agitator, who attempted to foment trouble at Barisal, was arrested under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act. The disputes between the Calcutta Corporation and its Scavengers and Labour Union have already been referred to, and they did not in fact result in any strike or disturbance, although at one time in July there was a prospect of Calcutta's conservancy arrangements being brought to a standstill. A number of small strikes occurred in various mills and factories during the year, but they were of so ephemeral and insignificant a nature that they do not merit detailed reference here.

Trade Unionism.

47. Trade Unions continued to increase in numbers, if not in stability and importance, and during the year organizations designated the All-Bengal Press Workers' Union, the Calcutta Press Karmachari Sangha, the All-Bengal Chemical Workers' Union, the Pottery Workers' Union, the Oriental Gas Workers' Union and the Chittagong Boatmen's and Sailors' Association applied for registration. Altogether 25 applications for registration were received, and 20 new Unions were registered. In April the 14th annual session of the All-India Trade Union Congress

was held in Calcutta, at which the Red Flag was hoisted and numerous harangues of a Socialist and Communist nature were delivered. The principles of class struggle, of a central Trade Union Committee, and of one Union for each industry were accepted; the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the India Bill was denounced as an exhibition of reactionary imperialism; and "Workers" were urged to stand shoulder to shoulder, and to ally themselves with peasants, educated youths and members of the Congress Socialist Party. The overthrow of the present Congress leaders and the radicalization of the movement as a whole was demanded with as much insistence as the release of all political prisoners and the repeal of all "repressive laws". A complete programme was approved for the abolition of Indian States and landlordism; for the nationalization of land, public utility services, minerals and banks; for the transfer of power "to the oppressed and exploited masses"; for the repudiation of all debts incurred by "the foreign Government"; for the introduction of free primary education; and for the enjoyment of freedom of speech, expression and assembly. During the session Communist leaflets were hawked round, and there was a strong Communist atmosphere about all the proceedings. Much of the oratory was of the hot-air variety, and attempts to put theories into practice by the observance of May Day and the boycotting of the Silver Jubilee celebrations were not conspicuous by their success. In July a Trade Union Rights Defence Committee was formed, to protest against the action of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, in "banning labour meetings and interfering with labour demonstrations"; and a public meeting held on 30th August voiced similar sentiments. Labour showed its appreciation of the value of the approaching Reforms by the interest which it evinced in August and September in the Local Government's proposals for delimitation of Industrial and Labour constituencies for the Provincial and Federal Legislatures; and the proposal to limit the representation of Trade Unionism to regular members of Railway and Water Transport Worker's Unions, was not well-received by those interested in other associations. This disapproval found expression in October in a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Bengal Trades Union Federation, recording its strong protest against the proposed allocation of seats. Generally speaking the increase in the number of Trade Unions was not accompanied by a corresponding appreciation of the fundamental principles or purpose of Trade Unionism, and the great majority of those who organized and controlled the Unions continued to regard them mainly as a weapon to be used, in and out of season, against the employers of labour, and as a field for the dissemination of socialist doctrine.

# PART II.

## CHAPTER I.

## States, Forces, External Affairs.

### Cooch Behar.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1934-35.]

General.

1. The State of Cooch Behar comprises an area of 1,318 square miles and a population of 590,866 persons. It maintains a military force of 199 troops, including 91 armed police; and its principal crops are rice, mustard-seed, jute, and tobacco. The present Maharaja, His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, matriculated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in October 1934; and after a visit to the State in January 1935 in the company of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur, he returned to England to continue his studies. During the year Lieut.-Col. J. A. Brett, C.I.E., held office, as Vice-President of the Regency Council, and Mr. F. W. Robertson, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, acted as Political Agent.

Financial.

2. The revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 28,63,347 against Rs. 24,89,554 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,73,793. The expenditure on the other hand amounted to Rs. 25,68,326, as against Rs. 24,83,947 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 84,379. The figures call for no particular comment.

State Railway.

3. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway during the year under report were Rs. 3,52,833 and the working expenses charged for the year were Rs. 1,63,612. The sum actually received in cash during the year from the Chief Accounts Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, was Rs. 1,83,484.

**Crops and condition of the people.**

4. The rainfall during the year was 131·58 inches, as against 111·15 inches of the previous year and the normal rainfall of 123·85 inches. The price of common rice ranged from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-12 per maund; of mustard seed from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-12 per maund; of jute from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 4 per maund and of tobacco from Rs. 5-6 to Rs. 9 per maund. The weather conditions were not particularly favourable to the growth of jute and paddy, and the area under sugarcane cultivation was in consequence gradually extended. Four crushing mills were hired out for the use of growers, and about 434 maunds of *gur* and sugar were manufactured. The manufacture of *gur* to a certain extent alleviated the present economic difficulties of the cultivators. In this connection the State co-operated with Government in its efforts to secure a voluntary reduction of the area under jute cultivation, and the Agricultural Officer visited the important jute-growing areas and explained to the people the necessity and advantages of restricting the amount of jute in cultivation. The result of this propaganda was a voluntary reduction of the jute crop to the extent of about 5 annas. The Agricultural Officer also distributed various new crop seeds and did demonstration and propaganda work in connection with profitable substitute crops. The results achieved were satisfactory on the whole.

**Crime.**

5. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,329, as against 2,295 in the previous year, showing an increase of 34 cases. Of 1,229 cases reported to the Police during the year, investigation was refused under section 157(*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code in 94 cases, as against 70 cases in the previous year. Of the remainder, 573 were declared true, and out of those 481 were sent up for trial. The percentage of conviction to persons tried was 89·7. Forty-seven appeals were preferred; in 4 cases the appeals were rejected, in 32 cases the original orders were confirmed, in 6 modified and in only 2 reversed. Three cases were pending at the end of the year.

**Public Health.**

6. The general health of the people during the year under report was on the whole good. The number of cholera cases reported was 249, and the percentage of deaths was 72·28, as against 74·18 in the previous year. The number of persons attacked with small-pox was 998, and the percentage was 20·34 against 19·10 in the previous year. Facilities for vaccination and revaccination were provided. The number of malarial cases considerably decreased during the year, in comparison with the previous year.

Education.

7. The number of High English schools in the State was 5 as in the previous year. The number of Middle English schools was increased from 24 to 26. Of these, 25 were aided and 1 unaided, as against 22 aided and 2 unaided during the preceding year. The number of Middle Vernacular schools fell to 10, as against 12 of the previous year. The total number of institutions for the exclusive education of Muhammadan students was 30 during the year under report, as against 26 in the previous year. Of these, 19 were aided and 11 unaided, as against 18 aided and 8 unaided in the preceding year. During the year under report the total number of schools rose from 345 to 374, the number of pupils from 13,514 to 14,505, and the average daily attendance from 9,449 to 9,876. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 95,263, as against Rs. 92,732 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,531. The State contributed Rs. 42,653 and the people Rs. 52,610.

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## Tripura.

General.

8. The State of Tripura comprises an area of 4,116 square miles with a population of 382,450. His Highness Maharaja Sir Bir Bikram Kishore Dev Barman Bahadur, K.C.S.I., spent the summer of 1934 at Mussoorie, and was in residence at Agartala from August until December, when he proceeded to Calcutta. In February 1935 he undertook a tour in the south-west portion of the State, and then again returned to Calcutta, where a second son was born to Her Highness the Maharani Saheba at the end of March. Mr. E. W. Holland, I.C.S., District Magistrate of Tipperah, continued to be the Political Agent throughout the year under review.

Finance.

9. The year opened with a balance of over Rs. 14 lakhs, as against a sum of over Rs. 10 lakhs in 1933. The total revenue from permanent sources was Rs. 15,79,609 in the State and Rs. 9,87,261 in the Zemindaries, as compared with Rs. 13,39,810 and Rs. 9,08,361, respectively, in 1933-34. With deposits the total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 29,21,572, as against Rs. 34,37,193 in the previous year. The collection of land revenue was encouraging, and the increase in the duty on cotton, oil seeds and tea also resulted in larger revenue, but the revenue from forests showed a drop of Rs. 20,303. Against a total of Rs. 43,24,006 available for expenditure, the actual amount expended was Rs. 28,47,545 a decrease of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs when compared with the previous year. There were signs of a gradual recovery from the economic depression, but a cautious financial policy was followed and every effort was made to restrict unnecessary expenditure.

**Crops and condition of the people.**

10. Weather conditions were generally favourable to crops both in the hills and in the plains, and there was an increased outturn of paddy, cotton and oil seeds. The output of tea increased by 27 per cent., but the yield of jute fell as a result of the restriction scheme enforced in Bengal. As a result of the perceptibly steady and at times comparatively high level of prices of several indigenous commodities, the general economic condition of agriculturists improved considerably. A serious flood did considerable damage to homesteads at Agartala, but fortunately resulted in no loss of life. It was clear from the year's results that the tea industry has a bright future in Tripura State, and the Durbar continued the policy of assisting it by remissions and acceptance of relinquishment of portions of tea grants.

**Public Health.**

11. Cholera resulted in 82 deaths during the year, and small-pox attacked 23 persons, 4 of whom died. Fifty-four patients were treated for leprosy, and 300 persons received attention at two kala-azar centres. Over 8,000 persons were vaccinated, and more than 3,700 were inoculated during the year.

**Crime.**

12. The total number of cases reported to the Police fell from 1,009 to 894 during 1934-35. Altogether 675 persons were arrested and 819 persons were sent up by the police for trial. The percentage of conviction was 30·96 per cent. Nine Arms Act cases were instituted against 10 persons, 3 of whom were convicted, 2 acquitted and 5 were under trial at the close of the year. In one of these cases a revolver and a pistol were seized from the house of a young man, and in another a revolver was recovered from the possession of a school-boy. Two stolen guns and the barrel of a third gun were recovered in British territory. The percentage of recovery of stolen property was 11·73, as against 14·99 in the previous year; and the number of dacoity cases rose from 14 to 28. The system of co-operation meetings between Circle Inspectors and their own and British Police Officers of adjoining jurisdictions was continued during the year, and musketry and revolver practice was carried on as before with satisfactory results.

**Education.**

13. The total number of schools during the year under review rose from 184 to 193, including 5 High English schools and one branch high school. The total number of pupils also rose from 1,488 to 1,597, and the average daily attendance from 1,150 to 1,186. The State High English schools sent up 64 candidates for Matriculation, of whom 57 passed. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,23,867.

## Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

14. As stated in previous Reports, the Auxiliary Force Units in the Presidency and Assam District comprise Royal Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, Armoured Car Sections, an Armoured Train, Light Motor Patrols, and Wireless Telegraph Sections. During the year under review Auxiliary Force Units were not called out to assist the civil authorities on any occasion, but even so the standard of efficiency attained at the end of the year was very satisfactory. It was found possible to arrange for an Auxiliary Force Staff Exercise at Ranchi in November for the benefit of Auxiliary Force Officers, and this Exercise was well attended, as were the unit camps. A special camp for mounted officers only was held in Calcutta during the winter.

The Indian Territorial Force Units in the Presidency and Assam District comprise one Provincial Territorial Force Unit and three University Training Corps at Calcutta, Dacca and Patna. Their training is carried out under the supervision of Regular Officers. The Calcutta University Training Corps was started in 1917, when two companies were formed. In 1921 the Corps was reconstituted under the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, as the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training Corps. Parades actually started in July, 1922, when, as a result of an intensive recruiting campaign, the strength of the unit was increased to some five hundred and fifty members. From 1922 to 1933 annual camps were held. No camp was held during the winter of 1934-35 owing to the poor attendance at preliminary parades. The attendance improved subsequently and annual camps will be re-introduced if this improvement is maintained.

15. 11/19th Hyderabad Regiment of the Indian Territorial Force was raised in August 5th, 1921, as the 1st (Territorial) Battalion 94th Russels Infantry, the present designation dating from 1922. The battalion has its Headquarters and two companies located at Dinapore, the latter being designated the Bihar and Orissa Wing. The Bengal Wing (located in Calcutta), like the Bihar and Orissa Wing, is embodied for training for one month annually (two months for recruits), this period being spent in camp on the Calcutta Maidan. The Bengal Wing is composed of residents of Bengal only. During the annual camp British and Indian Officers and Indian Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regular Battalions of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment are attached to the Bengal Wing for the organisation and supervision of the annual training. The present strength of the Bengal Wing consists of 184 members, and the administration is carried out by the

Adjutant of the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training Corps.

## Ecclesiastical Establishment.

16. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year 1934-35, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Most Reverend Foss Westcott, D.D., Lord Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese and 10 Chaplains of the Church of England; 14 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies; the Reverend R. E. Lee, M.C., Presidency Senior Chaplain, and 4 other Chaplains of the Church of Scotland; and the Most Reverend Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., Archbishop of Calcutta, and 3 priests of the Church of Rome.

## Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act XXII of 1932.]

**Inland Emigration.**

17. The first consolidated report on inland emigration under the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, XXII of 1932, which came into force with effect from the 1st October, 1933 and repealed the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901, covers the year ending on the 30th September, 1934, and is compiled by the Controller of Emigrant Labour, the various provincial reports having been abolished. Materials have been supplied to the Controller of Emigrant Labour for the compilation of this report, and for its submission to the Government of India. During the year 778 persons were assisted to emigrate to the Assam Valley, of whom 452 were adults and the rest children. Of the adults, 12 came from Midnapore and the rest from Birbhum. During the year two local forwarding agents worked on behalf of the Tea Districts Labour Association; one had his depot at Kharagpur in the district of Midnapore and was licensed to work in the districts of Midnapore, Bankura and Burdwan, and the other had a depot at Rampurhat in the district of Birbhum and was licensed to work in that district only. Of the assisted emigrants to the Assam Valley, 18 were accommodated at the Kharagpur agency and the rest, viz., 760, at the Rampurhat agency. The total number of emigrants who passed through the transit depots at Asansol and Naihati was 96,761, amongst whom 19 developed sickness. Eighteen of these were cured, but the other, an infant boy, died of

pernicious malaria. Goalundo was the only port from which emigrants were despatched to the Tea Districts, one transit depot being maintained there by the Tea Districts Labour Association, and 1,722 emigrants being despatched from there. Of these 1,386 were sent to the Assam Valley and 336 to the Surma Valley. No sickness or death among them was reported. No illegal or fraudulent recruitment or forwarding of emigrants came to notice during the year. The transit depots at Asansol and Naihati were inspected by the Controller and the Civil Surgeons of the districts concerned.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act VII of 1922, and the rules framed thereunder, for the year ending 31st December 1934.]

Foreign Emigration.

18. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under review, but one skilled worker, a marine engineer, proceeded to Mauritius on a contract agreement for two years.

Repatriation to India.

19. During the year a total of 246 repatriates sailed from the Union of South Africa and the colony of Fiji on return to India, as against 426 in the previous year. No emigrants from British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Mauritius and Surinam returned during the year under report. There was no death among the returning emigrants in their voyage to India during the year, as against one death in the previous year. The general health of the emigrants during the voyage was very good, and no report on the occurrence of any infectious disease among them was received. There were, however, among the repatriates 9 lepers, all from Fiji, as against 20 lepers from the same colony in the previous year; and as usual the majority of those who returned were time expired, old and debilitated people, enfeebled by age, and of very poor condition.

## Haj Pilgrims.

[Annual Report of the Port Haj Committee for 1934.]

20. In 1934 one ship, the S.S. "Alavi," sailed from the port of Calcutta on 22nd February with 286 pilgrims for the Hedjaz; and the total number proceeding on Haj from Bengal through the various ports of India was 666. There were no deaths on board the "Alavi" during the outward voyage. On February 7th, 1935, a second ship, the S.S. "Jehangir," sailed from Calcutta with a large complement of pilgrims. As usual pilgrims arriving at

Sealdah Station were met by constables deputed for duty in connection with Haj traffic, who escorted them to the *musafirkhanas*. Two volunteer organizations, the Noakhali Muslim Students' Association and the Delhi Muslim Association, also rendered assistance. Steps were taken to ensure that all pilgrims leaving the port of Calcutta had been vaccinated against small-pox and inoculated against cholera. Although the voyage from Calcutta is slightly longer than that from Bombay, there are certain real advantages in sailing from this port, which considerably outweigh the disadvantages of a longer sea voyage. Pilgrims from Calcutta travel with their own countrymen, speaking the same language and with very similar, if not identical, customs and manners. They are not required to undergo the hardship of a railway journey to Bombay, often in very crowded trains, and they avoid the payment of excess charges for baggage, etc. They are also spared the discomforts, dangers and delays of the wait at Bombay before embarkation. The increase in the number of pilgrims shows that the port of Calcutta is becoming more and more popular with pilgrims proceeding to the Hedjaz from Bengal.

# CHAPTER II.

## Law and Order.

### Police Administration in Bengal.

[The Report on the Police Administration of the Bengal Presidency for the year 1934.]

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

21. The battalion maintained its efficiency and discipline under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Dallas-Smith, I.A. It is gratifying to note that the figures under the various heads of casualties fell from 118 to 67, and that there was a further decline in the daily average number of sick in hospital from 14·81 to 10·08.

Strength.

22. The strength of the permanent forces (including the Eastern Frontier Rifles) at the close of the year was 25,130 officers and men. The gross expenditure incurred from provincial revenues was Rs. 1,76,48,636. The provincial police receipts were Rs. 2,69,000 approximately. Bengal (excluding Calcutta and Chittagong Hill Tracts) has a population of 48,704,346, so that the net cost of police per head of the population in 1934 was about five annas and eight pies only. The number of constables recruited was 1,529, of whom 579 were local men, against 1,532, including 555 local men, recruited in 1933. As in the previous year, there was no dearth of qualified candidates, but suitable local recruits to the extent required were not available in all districts.

Health.

23. It is gratifying to note that the health of the force showed considerable improvement, the total admissions into hospital being 12,730 against 15,044 in the previous year. Arrangements were made, as an experimental measure, to put selected constables through a course of training in nursing at district headquarters to provide for the better nursing of sick in police hospitals, and the results will be watched with interest.

Discipline.

24. The number of officers and men judicially punished, excluding those dealt with under the Police Act, decreased from 28 to 23, while cases of punishment inflicted departmentally rose from 7,957 to 8,228. While it is regrettable to have to record this increase in the number of departmental punishments, the figures were evidence of a determination to maintain a proper standard of

discipline. The number of complaints instituted against the police by private individuals was 233 against 242 in 1933. Out of the 197 cases disposed of during the year, only 19 ended in conviction. It will be seen that nine cases out of every ten brought by private individuals against police officers in the criminal courts ended in acquittal, discharge or dismissal. It is satisfactory to note that rewards amounting to Rs. 23,754 were granted to members of the public, a fact which afforded welcome evidence of co-operation by the public with the police in the prevention and detection of crime.

Crime statistics.

25. There was a decrease in the number of non-cognizable cases from 124,248 to 123,291, but the number of true cognizable cases and of serious crimes increased from 67,666 and 43,033, respectively, to 70,128 and 45,228. The increase in serious crimes was mainly in respect of burglary, theft and coining, while cases of murder, dacoity and robbery fell from 609, 1,518 and 649, respectively, to 534, 1,280 and 630. The drop in the number of dacoities was most noticeable in Midnapore, Dacca, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Khulna, being 111, 34, 26, 21 and 20 cases less, respectively, than in the previous year. The decrease was attributed to the action taken against organized gangs of criminals. It is noteworthy that the complicity of *bhadraloks* in dacoity cases showed an appreciable fall from 28 to 13. Instances of resistance offered to dacoits showed a satisfactory increase from 45 of the previous year to 64. As regards crimes committed within the jurisdiction of the railway police, there was an increase of thefts from running passenger trains on the Sealdah section of the Eastern Bengal Railway and on the Saidpur section of the Eastern Bengal and Assam-Bengal Railways, the figures being 86 and 35, respectively, against 65 and 21 of the previous year. There was reason to suspect that this increase was due to the release from jail of certain notorious criminals, who specialise in this form of crime. On the Saidpur section of the Eastern Bengal and Assam-Bengal Railways a dacoity with murder was committed at Hajiganj, in the course of which mail bags were looted. There also occurred another case in which a mail bag was looted at the point of a revolver.

Rural police.

26. The total number of dafadars and chaukidars was 75,487 against 76,311, and the cost of their maintenance was Rs. 55,58,882 against Rs. 55,95,790 in the previous year. The average cost per month per head of the rural police came to Rs. 6-2-2. It is regrettable to note the complaint of the Inspector-General of Police that, in spite of individual good work done by some members of the rural police and certain Presidents and members of Union

Boards, to which he drew attention, there was little improvement in the general working of the rural police or in the co-operation of the members of Union Boards with the police. The complaints mainly were that the payment of salaries of the rural police was irregular, that they were slack in reporting crime and criminals to the thanas, that chaukidari parades before the Presidents of the Union Boards were not properly held, and that many Presidents of Union Boards took no interest in police matters. The closer attention now paid to the affairs of Union Boards by Circle Officers and Subdivisional Officers, and the periodical co-operation meetings between the police and members of the Union Boards, which are now regularly held in many districts, will doubtless go a long way to effect the improvements which are so necessary, and it is hoped that every effort will be made in this direction.

Revolutionary crime.

27. Excluding cases that occurred in the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Police, there were 14 cases of crimes committed in Bengal by terrorists as against 41 in the previous year and 74 in the year before. This improvement in the situation was due to steady pressure by the police, especially of the Intelligence Branch, against the various terrorist organisations, and in a great degree also to the awakening of public opinion. The crimes committed by terrorists included two murders of private persons, three attempted murders, six dacoities, in five of which firearms were used, one attempted dacoity, one robbery and one case of bomb-throwing. In the year under review, the theft of 12 revolvers and pistols was reported, and 32 revolvers and 17 pistols were recovered.

28. The most conspicuous overt acts of terrorism committed during the year were the attempts on the life of His Excellency the Governor on the race course at Lebong, Darjeeling, in May, and on that of Mr. M. F. Cleary, Superintendent of Police, at Chittagong in January. His Excellency providentially escaped injury and the two culprits who fired were promptly overpowered. The investigation that followed showed that the outrage had been planned in Calcutta and Dacca, and seven of the conspirators, all residents of Dacca, were tried by a Special Tribunal. Two of them were condemned to death, but the sentence of one of them was commuted by His Excellency to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment. The remaining five were sentenced to various terms of transportation and rigorous imprisonment ranging from 14 to 12 years. The two youths who attempted the life of Mr. Cleary were shot dead on the spot, while two others, arrested for throwing bombs amongst the spectators assembled in the *shamiana* on the cricket ground, were, on trial by a Special Tribunal, sentenced to death. The sentence was duly confirmed by the High Court.

29. A regrettable incident took place in Dacca, in which a Muhammadan lost his life while endeavouring with three others to apprehend an armed terrorist, who was passing with two other suspicious youths at about 2 a.m. on the 10th April 1934, down the Deobhog-Baburail Road. Two of the culprits managed to escape, while the third was seized. As a result of the investigation, two persons were tried by a Special Tribunal. One was found guilty and sentenced to death, and the other was acquitted.

30. A notable success of the year was the arrest with booty of a number of culprits who, armed with revolvers and other deadly weapons, had broken into a house at Bathua, police-station Hathazari in the Chittagong district, and looted cash and ornaments to the value of Rs. 3,000. The arrest was effected under peculiar circumstances. It so happened that on the 24th February, the morning after the date on which the dacoity took place, it had been decided to cordon the area of Fateabad, embracing five or six villages in the neighbourhood of Bathua. Several persons with gold and silver ornaments and bundles containing revolvers and other deadly weapons were arrested within the cordon. On return to headquarters, it was found that the persons who had been arrested had taken part in the dacoity and that the gold and silver ornaments recovered had been stolen during the dacoity. A Special Tribunal before which fourteen persons were placed on trial, convicted them all, sentencing seven to transportation for life, two to transportation for ten years and the rest to rigorous imprisonment ranging from ten to seven years.

31. The series of terrorist outrages committed and the large number of pistols and revolvers recovered during the year were evidence of the fact that, though the police have been able to get the measure of terrorism as they had never done before, it is still an insidious and dangerous movement against which unremitting vigilance must be maintained.

Intelligence.

32. The Intelligence Branch, in co-operation with the Military Intelligence Officers, rendered loyal and devoted services and did invaluable work in breaking up the terrorist organizations. The services rendered by the various military forces, whose presence inspired a sense of security amongst civil officers and the loyal supporters of Government in the province, and the services rendered by the Watch and Ward Committees in Midnapore and the Village Watch Committees in Chittagong, which contributed not a little towards checking the spread of the terrorist movement in those districts, were highly appreciated.

## Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1934.]

Strength and discipline.

33. The strength of the force at the close of the year was 5,646 officers and men. The gross expenditure incurred was Rs. 45,01,311, but if receipts amounting to Rs. 9,03,774 be deducted, the net cost of the maintenance of the force was approximately Rs. 36 lakhs. The Calcutta Police District has a population of 1,196,734, so that the cost per head of the population was about Rs. 3. The number of constables enlisted in the year was 117, as against 89 in the previous year. Of these, 51 were Bengalees as against 40 in the previous year. It is a matter for satisfaction that recruits with a sound educational qualification continued to present themselves for enlistment. There was an increase in the number of punishments, especially of major punishments, and it is hoped that this increase will be only temporary.

Health.

34. The general health of the force continued good, the number of cases of malarial fever being considerably lower than in previous years. There were, however, 44 deaths against 32 in 1933. The average daily number of sick was 104 against 103 in the previous year. It is gratifying to note the improvement which was effected in the police hospital, both in respect of facilities for nursing and in equipment.

Crime statistics.

35. There was a slight increase in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police, but it is noteworthy that there was a welcome drop in all forms of serious crimes. The number of true cases of coining, robbery, murder, dacoity, rioting, burglary and receiving stolen property decreased to 40, 16, 21, 4, 21, 426, and 93, respectively, as against 56, 19, 28, 7, 36, 432 and 148 in the previous year. There was, moreover, a remarkable improvement in the percentage of property recovered to property stolen, the figure being 26·2 in 1934 against 11·9 in 1932 and 19·3 in 1933. Of the cases reported to the police, 94·6 per cent. were sent up. Of the cases tried, 97·3 per cent. ended in conviction. The Detective Department assisted the thana police in 223 cases, and investigated 147 cases independently, although it was under strength by two inspectors and three sub-inspectors who were employed in the Press and general intelligence section. It is interesting to note the account of the more important cases dealt with by the Detective Department, and to mark the high standard of detective ability displayed by the investigating staff. It is also satisfactory to note the valuable work done by the Special Detective staff of the Port Police, which resulted in the recovery of 14 revolvers, 3 automatic pistols and 234 rounds of ammunition,

the arrest of a number of terrorists in possession of firearms, and the externment of 22 arms smugglers and brokers from Calcutta under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934.

**Revolutionary crime.**

36. Although there were no cases of overt terrorist crime, the discovery of arms, explosives and ammunition of various types was a reminder that terrorism is still active and malignant, and it is a tribute to the vigilance of the Special Branch, working in co-operation with the Intelligence Branch of the Bengal Police, that the movement has been kept so well in check. The most satisfactory result of the year was the success achieved against the dangerous group of terrorists known as the Bengal Volunteer Corps of the Sree Sangha, which has been responsible for many outrages. It is a matter of pleasure to record the loyalty, courage and devotion to duty displayed by all ranks of the force throughout the year, and particularly of the Special Branch, which has so effectively strengthened the position of Government against the deep-rooted menace of terrorism.

**Labour.**

37. It is regrettable to note the increase in communistic agitation and propaganda amongst the working classes of the city. This disquieting feature in the labour situation of Calcutta seriously interferes with the legitimate activities of genuine trade unions, which alone can promote the welfare of the labouring classes and which Government are anxious to foster and encourage.

**Beggars.**

38. There was a striking increase in the number of beggars sent up for trial, there being 8,235 against 4,334 in the previous year. The procedure under the present law for dealing with this problem is far from satisfactory. Action absorbing much police time and public money not infrequently results merely in the discharge of the accused after a warning or a sentence of detention till the rising of the Court. A practical solution of this pressing problem still remains to be discovered.

**Traffic.**

39. The setting up of the Traffic Advisory Board, composed of persons interested in the traffic problems of the city, was a welcome innovation introduced during the year. It is only with the co-operation of the public that the safety of the streets can be secured, and the new Board forms a valuable link with the police, which should do much towards that end. There was a decline in the number of fatal injuries due to street accidents. The number of persons killed was 99 against 118 in 1933. The number of injured, on the other hand, was 2,195 against 1,879 in 1933. The report of the Public Vehicles Department showed an all-round increase in receipts, the amount realised from the motor vehicles tax alone being Rs. 10,84,636, which was Rs. 1,18,269 better than in the previous year.

## Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1934.]

Analytical cases.

40. During the year under review 7,635 articles were examined by the Department, as against 7,238 in the previous year. In the General Analytical Department (including Excise) 1,466 examinations were made as against 1,595 in 1933, the decrease being noticeable mainly in respect of the heads Cocaine, Opium and Explosives. The number of samples of Cocaine examined was 334, and it is interesting to note that in most of the cocaine cases Novocaine was found either mixed with cocaine or in its pure form, an indication that Novocaine, an exempted drug, is freely used both as a substitute and as an adulterant of cocaine. In this connection investigations were made during the year in respect of the fluorescent properties of drugs under ultra-violet rays, and into the narcotic strengths of ganja and charas samples. One hundred and forty-four samples of Opium were examined during the year; while the number of explosive substances examined fell from 560 to 427.

Medico-legal cases.

41. During the year under review 2,363 medico-legal cases were referred to the Department, as against 2,156 cases in 1933. The increase was mainly in respect of Human and Animal Poisoning, and Stain and Miscellaneous cases. The number of cases detected was 1,301, or 55·05 per cent., as against 56·53 per cent. in the previous year. The total number of articles examined was 6,169, as against 5,643 in 1933, and the increase of 526 articles appeared mainly in respect of Poisoning and Miscellaneous cases. Nine hundred and thirty-four human Viscera were examined during the year under report, and poison was detected in 241 of them. As usual the most common poison detected in fatal human poisoning cases was opium, which appeared in 176 articles. Of the 158 human tissues examined, poison was detected in 49. The viscera of 61 horned cattle were received for analysis, as against 83 in 1933, and poison in the form of arsenic was detected in 60 of them, aconite being found in the remaining one. As regards stains, 3,061 articles said to be stained with blood, semen, or other matter were received for examination in connection with 1,089 cases. The figures for 1933 were 3,104 and 1,061 respectively. Of 2,210 articles received for determination of blood, 1,377 were found to be stained with human blood and 27 with non-human blood. Five hundred and eighty-one articles were received in connection with 248 rape and unnatural offence cases.

## Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1934.]

Population.

42. During 1934, the admissions exceeded those of 1933 by 3,185 (including transfers), and the average daily strength rose from 21,405·39 to 21,850·57, the highest average of any year during the past decade, except 1932. Although the two special Jails at Dum Dum and the one at Hijli, started during the civil disobedience period, were kept open, all the central jails and most of the district jails were consistently overcrowded, and this imposed a great strain upon the administrative staff. There seems to be little prospect of the jail population being reduced again to the level of the average of the years preceding 1930, and it has become imperative that steps should now be taken to increase the permanent accommodation in the jails to cope with a permanently increased jail population.

Cost of guarding and maintenance.

43. In spite of the increase in the number of prisoners, however, the total cost of guarding and maintenance fell from Rs. 29,44,204 in 1933 to Rs. 29,07,789, the average cost per head being Rs. 129-4 against Rs. 133-9 in 1933. The cost of maintenance and guarding has thus increased by 14 per cent. only, though the average daily population has increased by 56 per cent. over that of 1929.

Terrorist prisoners.

44. The number of terrorist prisoners at the close of the year was 445, as against 350 at the close of the preceding year, the number admitted during the year, being 761 as against 741 of the previous year. Thirty-nine were deported to the Andamans, of whom 27 were from Bengal. Five were repatriated on medical grounds and for release. The presence of so many terrorists in jails was a source of constant anxiety, for they continued to defy jail rules and the directions of the jail authorities, to make plans for escape and to attempt to seduce the weaker members of the warder staff. In June, 1934 two terrorist convicts escaped from the Midnapore Jail, while soon after, three terrorist undertrials escaped from the Rampurhat sub-jail. All these were recaptured. These escapes were followed on the 31st July, by the escape of four undertrial prisoners of the Inter-Provincial Conspiracy case from the Alipore Central Jail. One was recaptured the following day, but the remainder had not been traced when the year closed. The custody of terrorist prisoners presents special features very different from those of ordinary prisoners, and precautions which are good enough for the latter do not suffice for the terrorist. The lack of adequate accommodation, ordinary and cellular, makes the segregation of terrorists from other prisoners and from each other difficult.

Since the close of the year projects for the extension of cellular accommodation in two of the central jails have been sanctioned, but though they will ease the situation, they will not in any sense be adequate for requirements. The general discipline among ordinary convicts continued to be satisfactory.

Damage due to earthquake.

45. The earthquake of the 15th January caused extensive damage to the jail buildings at Darjeeling. The shock was so severe that the major portion of the wall on the north side of the jail, the warders' barrack on the north side, the main wards and the major portion of the perimeter wall collapsed beyond repair. There was, fortunately, no loss of life either among the staff and their families, or the prisoners. The latter, however, were panic-stricken, and had to be collected in the yard away from all structures, and locked up for the night in the two worksheds, in the cells and in the hospital. None attempted to escape. The jailer and deputy jailer remained in the jail throughout the night, supervising the guarding arrangements and the work of the warder staff was commendable. The jails at Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur were also damaged by the earthquake, but this damage was comparatively slight.

Borstal inmates.

46. The number of boys sent to the Borstal School at Bankura instead of to jail has been steadily increasing. The number of admissions during the year under review was 172 against 90 in the previous year, and the average daily attendance rose from 177·32 in 1933 to 214·64. The programme of education consists of literary, physical and industrial training, supplemented by moral and religious instruction. Though the general standard aimed at is the primary school stage, boys who are fit for higher education are given instruction up to the Matriculation standard. One hundred and ninety-seven boys appeared at the annual examination held by the Education Department, and of these 153 passed; while 7 boys read for the Matriculation Examination of 1935 during the year under report. About 75 per cent. of the boys were illiterate on admission, but all of them received instruction up to the primary standard by the time of their release. The number of orders received from outside was sufficient to keep the boys engaged throughout the year in all the branches of industry in which they receive training. On the physical side, regular exercises were carried out daily under a paid Drill Instructor, and the boys were allowed to play football, hockey and cricket, among other games, and to take part in matches against outside teams. A beginning has been made with a scout troop, which it is hoped will develop gradually. Fifty-two boys were released on licence during the year, and 20 on expiry of detention, of whom 50 (46 on licence and 4 on expiry) were sent to the Aftercare Association at Alipore. The

greater number of them are reported to be leading steady lives. The success of the Borstal treatment must depend in a large measure upon the guidance and assistance given to the offender subsequent to his discharge from the school, and it is hoped that District Officers will endeavour to form Aftercare Associations in those districts in which they do not at present exist. The Visiting Committee of the Borstal School visited the school regularly and took great interest in its welfare.

**Juvenile and adolescent prisoners.**

47. It is a matter of serious concern that the number of juvenile convicts shows no tendency to decrease. This portion of the jail population is peculiarly sensitive to political agitation, and the increase in numbers in 1930 and 1932 was directly attributable to the general spirit of lawlessness which prevailed in those years. The Civil Disobedience Movement has been called off, but its aftermath remains, and this probably accounts for the larger number of youths between 16—21 who resort to crime. It is hoped that, as the economic situation improves and as the political situation gets more settled, there will be some decline in their number, but it is unlikely that it will ever get back to what it was before 1930, and it seems probable that it will be necessary in the near future to have more institutions of the Borstal type. Meanwhile, subject to the limitations of accommodation and funds, special arrangements are being made for such prisoners as far as possible. The former female jail at Berhampore has been set apart for juveniles, and something on the lines of Borstal training is being attempted there. The prisoners are given primary education and physical training under paid teachers, while instruction in useful handicrafts, such as weaving, carpentry, etc., is imparted by well behaved convict teachers. Lack of funds has so far stood in the way of replacement of such instructors by a paid agency from outside. In the Alipore Central Jail rudimentary lessons in the vernaculars and English, as well as industrial training and physical instruction, are being given to adolescent criminals. In the Presidency Jail only primary education is imparted to this class of prisoners.

**Long detention of undertrials.**

48. There has been a distinct improvement in this respect in some of the districts, e.g., in Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Tippera. There are other districts, however, which show a deterioration in respect of undertrials both in Sessions and in Magistrates cases, the most notable of which are Hooghly, Dinajpur, Pabna, Bogra, Rajshahi (Sessions cases only), and Chittagong. Continued vigilance is called for both on the part of District Magistrates and District Judges, especially as the admission of undertrials has increased very considerably in recent years, and is far in excess of the accommodation available for them.

Short term sentences.

49. The number of short-term sentences of less than one month had increased from 9,166 in 1932 to 10,714 in 1933, which was 60 per cent. higher than the figure for 1929. During the year under report the number increased still further to 13,629. The explanation probably is that there has been a large increase in petty crime, and in Railway cases, in which fines are difficult to realise. Nevertheless, it must be reiterated that such sentences are neither deterrent nor reformative, and the trying courts should realise the harmful effect of bringing the chance offender into contact with the real criminal by sentences of this kind, and should try to avoid them by the imposition of alternative punishments.

Warders.

50. The presence of a large number of terrorist prisoners, and the serious overcrowding to which reference has been made in the preceding paragraphs, necessarily imposes a very serious strain upon the guard staff, which includes a large number of men recruited on a temporary basis to cope with the overcrowding, and also has untoward effects on discipline. It is not surprising, therefore, that the number of dismissals in the warder staff should have risen from 49 in 1933 to 58 in the year under report. This total however, is a good deal below the figure for 1932, which was 99, and considering the large number of the temporary staff, the increase is not more than might be expected. The general standard of recruits continues to improve, and steps are being taken to improve the standard of efficiency among head warders. Five senior warders (one from each circle) are being trained at the Police Training School, and it is expected that on their return it will be possible to make improvements in the efficiency of the whole force.

Jail libraries.

51. With a larger influx of literate and educated prisoners, it is necessary that the jails should provide sufficient reading matter for those who want to use their spare time in this manner. Government have had occasion recently to review this matter, and have directed that steps should be taken to improve the existing jail libraries and to start new libraries in district jails.

Jail manufactures.

52. The net earnings from the jail industries increased from 3,30,050 in 1933 to Rs. 3,40,535 in spite of trade depression. The woollen factory at Dacca continued to do well and received orders from State jails. The profits of the jail depot increasd slightly, though unfortunately it lost a valuable order for blankets from the Indian Stores Department.

Health and mortality.

53. Sickness and mortality increased during the year. The total number of deaths was 282 and the death rate was 12·91 per mille, as against 10·8 per mille in 1933. The daily average sick rate was 788·9 against 761·98 in 1933. The increase in deaths resulted chiefly from dysentery, pneumonia, and other respiratory

diseases, and appears to point to the effects of overcrowding. On the other hand, variations do occur from year to year, for which there is no adequate explanation. Thus in 1930 and 1932, when the jails were greatly overcrowded, the death rate per mille was respectively 9·3 and 10·52, while in 1929 when the jail population was several thousands less, the ratio per mille was 12·2.

## Registration.

Progress and statistics.

54. There were 387 Sub-Registry offices working at the close of the year 1934, as against 415 offices at the beginning of 1932. In the intervening period 29 offices were abolished as a measure of retrenchment, and one new office was opened. The total number of registrations in 1934 was 1,035,299, as against 910,712 in 1933, showing an increase of 13·6 per cent. and being the highest figures since 1930. The increase in the number of registrations in 1934 was due largely to a slight improvement in the economic conditions, which naturally stimulated transactions after a period of stagnation, and it was particularly satisfactory, in view of the fact that the *ad valorem* fees on documents of small value were increased by 50 per cent. with effect from 1st August 1933. The total income of the Registration Department increased from Rs. 18,56,028 to Rs. 22,10,126, i.e., by 19 per cent. The total expenditure also rose from Rs. 15,94,898 to Rs. 16,17,330 showing a slight increase of 1·4 per cent. The condition of many of the buildings which accommodate Sub-Registry offices continued to be unsuitable, but financial stringency prevented any appreciable progress being effected towards their improvement, or towards the extension of record rooms and the provision of racks to cope with the increasing number of records received. Owing to the reduction in the number of offices, no new Sub-Registrars were recruited during the year under review, and the scale of pay for future entrants has been reduced. It is expected that these retrenchments, together with the increase in *ad valoram* fees, will result in a larger net revenue to Government from this department.

Special Marriage Act, III of 1872.

55. One hundred and nine marriages were registered in 1934, as against 90 registered in 1933. At the end of the year 1934, there were 42 Marriage Registrars, including 28 *ex-officio* Registrars, as against 43 Marriage Registrars in the previous year. The increase in the number of marriages was mainly due to the fact that the progressive sections of the Hindu community are taking greater advantage of the new provisions of the Act as amended by Act, XXX of 1923. Fifty-seven of the marriages registered were between Hindus, and these were mostly intercaste marriages or marriages of widows.

Muhammadan Registration Act and Kazis' Act.

56. Bengal Act I of 1876 and the Kazis Act XII of 1880 were in force in all the districts of the province. As noticed in previous years, the Kazis' Act has never been widely appreciated, and the solemnization of marriage ceremonies still continues to be monopolized by village Mullahs to a large extent. The total number of marriages and divorces registered in the Presidency during the year 1934 was 57,334, as against 60,050 during 1933, showing a decrease of 4·5 per cent. The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars amounted to Rs. 1,59,823 during the year, as against Rs. 1,39,725 in the preceding year, showing an increased of 14·3 per cent. This increase, inspite of the decrease in registrations, is due to the revised fee rates, which came into force from September 1933. The Permanent Committee was reconstituted during the year under report; and the bill empowering the Muhammadan Registrars to register the class of divorce known as Talaq-i-Tafweez was passed its Law.

# CHAPTER III.

## Justice.

### Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1934.]

**Judicial staff.**

57. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Thirty-eight Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge were employed for various periods in 21 districts and decided 604 cases. Thirteen temporary Additional Sessions Judges were also employed in different districts on sessions work.

**Magisterial staff.**

58. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 467 stipendiary and 404 honorary magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 15 and 10, respectively, over the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate was employed at Hatiya (Noakhali) for 105 days during the year, and he disposed of 143 cases. Of the 467 stipendiary magistrates, 296 exercised first, 145 second and 26 third class powers. There were 90 benches of magistrates constituted from among 366 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of these, 61 were independent and 29 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

**Special Magistrates.**

59. Special Magistrates were appointed under the Bengal Public Security Act in the district of Hooghly for the trial of 5 cases. Three witnesses were examined in these 5 cases and all the 11 persons concerned in them were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. There were 2 cases with 2 persons pending before Special Magistrates appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act at the commencement of the year, while 123 were preferred and 104 disposed of during the year, leaving 21 with 57 persons pending at its close. In the cases disposed of, 162 persons were implicated. Of the persons tried, 128 were convicted and 34 were acquitted. Of the persons convicted, 111 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, five to rigorous imprisonment with fine, four to be detained in a

Borstal School, four punished with fine, three released on probation and one let off with a warning. The number of witnesses examined in the aforesaid cases was 1,069.

Special tribunals.

60. There were 4 cases with 66 persons pending before Special Tribunals constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act at the commencement of the year. During the year, 37 cases were preferred, 30 were disposed of and 11 with 46 persons remained pending at its close. In the cases decided, 118 persons were concerned. Altogether 1,123 witnesses were examined in the course of the trial of the above persons. The trial of the 118 persons resulted in the conviction of 104 and acquittal of 14. Of the persons convicted, 13 were sentenced to death, 19 to transportation for life, 68 to various terms of rigorous imprisonment, 2 to rigorous imprisonment with fine, 1 was released on probation and 1 was sentenced to a fine only. The cases of 13 persons sentenced to death were referred to the High Court.

Special Railway Magistrates.

61. The three Principal Railways, viz., the East Indian, Bengal Nagpur and Eastern Bengal, had frequently represented to Government that they were suffering losses on account of the absence of any system whereby railway cases could be expeditiously tried. They suggested that Special Magistrates should be appointed to hold courts at important railway centres, and stated that they were prepared to co-operate as far as possible. Government therefore decided to meet their wishes by appointing suitable Magistrates for this purpose; and accordingly courts were started at Howrah, Burdwan and Asansol on the East Indian Railway, Kharagpur on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and Parbatipur on the Eastern Bengal Railway. These courts are yet in the experimental stage, and from the reports on their working received from local officers, it appears that although some of them are working well, they have not fully solved the difficulty of bringing to book the large number of persons who travel without tickets. This was, in the year under report, partly due to the failure in execution of warrants issued against homeless and starving passengers from the earthquake-stricken areas of Bihar, who abandoned their homes under pressure of circumstances. Generally however it is due to failure of execution on account of bogus addresses being supplied.

Number of offences.

62. The total number of offences reported during the year, combined with the number pending from the previous year, was 396,300 against 386,301 in 1933. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 344,184 were found to be true, and of these 308,842 were brought to trial.

## ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

### *I.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.*

63. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 144,674 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town and 164,168 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was 15,106 more than in 1933. There was an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws and a decrease under the Penal Code. Under the former there was a noticeable increase in offences against the Police (Town) Acts, while under the latter head there was a further decrease in offences affecting the public health. The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 78·5 and before honorary magistrate sitting singly to 98·8. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 3,47,671. Rs. 2,65,230 was realised, of which Rs. 7,595 was paid as compensation to complainants.

### *II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.*

**Disposals.**

64. During the year 164,168 cases were brought to trial, and including cases committed to the Sessions, 163,747 cases were disposed of during the year. The decrease in the number of cases disposed of during the year was greatest in Howrah (1,701); the next lowest in order being Tippera (1,063); Noakhali (826) and Nadia (763); while the increase was highest in Burdwan (1,241); followed by 24-Parganas (867), Chittagong (588) and Rajshahi (354). The disposals were distributed as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| District Magistrates .. .. .. | 34 |
| Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates .. | 134,339 |
| Honorary Magistrates .. .. .. | 21,675 |
| Benches of Magistrates .. .. .. | 7,524 |
| Special Magistrates .. .. .. | 143 |

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 32 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The total number of cases disposed of by the District and Subdivisional Magistrates was 66, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Rangpur (15).

**Results.**

65. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 244,154 persons were accused or 3,804 less than in 1933. Of the total, 130,272 or 53·4 per cent. were convicted and 113,882 or 46·6 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

66. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:— Punishments.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imprisonment | .. | .. | .. | 20,332 |
| Fine or forfeiture | .. | .. | .. | 107,184 |
| Whipping | .. | .. | .. | 146 |

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 10,62,947. Rs. 6,00,273 was realised, of which Rs. 72,523 was paid as compensation to complainants

67. The total number of miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code decided during the year was 6,845 against 7,793 in the previous year. Miscellaneous proceedings.

68. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 374,219, as compared with 382,317 in 1933. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 134,304 or 26·4 per cent. of the whole number in attendance, the percentage in the preceding year being 26·5. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 2,46,440 in 1933 to Rs. 2,97,175 in 1934. Witnesses.

69. During the year under review, 1,370 Union Benches were working under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 in all the districts of the Presidency except Midnapore and Darjeeling, and 152,403 persons were brought before them for trial, of whom 121,226 were either discharge or acquitted, 10,020 were convicted, and 18,260 remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 2,897 persons were transferred for trial to other courts. Three hundred and seventy persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 9,650. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 55,202 and the amount realised was Rs. 30,789, out of which Rs. 546 were ordered to be paid as compensation. In all 1,608 persons applied for the revision of orders passed by Union Benches. The benches are reported to have afforded some relief to the Magistrates of the districts. Their work on the whole is reported to be satisfactory and to have met with public appreciation. They are also reported to be growing in popularity, as they provide a system of justice which has the advantage of local trial at very little cost. Union benches.

## *III.—Courts of Sessions.*

**Disposals.**

70. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of sessions was 1,882, against 2,158 in the previous year.

**Results.**

71. There were 6,878 persons, or 675 less than in 1933, under trial before the courts of sessions. Of the 5,935 persons tried, 3,416 or 57·5 per cent. were convicted, 2,389 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 130 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Punishments.**

72. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Sessions:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Death .. .. .. .. | 34 |
| Transportation or penal servitude .. | 158 |
| Imprisonment .. .. .. | 31,173 |
| Fine or forfeiture .. .. | 121 |
| Whippin; .. .. .. | 6 |

In addition to these sentences, 322 persons were required to give security. Fines to the amount of Rs. 31,810 were imposed. The total realisation of the year aggregated Rs. 3,338.

**Trial by Jury.**

73. The number of persons tried by jury was 5,070, and of the persons so tried Sessions Judges approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 4,963 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 107. The cases of 106 persons were referred to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Trial by assessors.**

74. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 374. In the cases of 122 persons of Sessions Judges concurred in the opinion of both the assessors, in the cases of 93 they differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 159 they differed from the opinion of both the assessors.

**Duration of cases.**

75. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision fell from 68·3 days in 1933 to 54·3 days in 1934. Notice was taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Hooghly, Murshidabad and Bogra, it having risen from 39 to 68 days in Hooghly, from 32 to 46·9 days in Murshidabad and from 51 to 65·8 days in Bogra. On the other hand, there was a remarkable reduction from 156 to 52 days in Jalpaiguri, from 103 to 55 days in Howrah, from 62·2 to 25·8 days in Chittagong and from 83·7 to 47·4 days in Mymensingh.

76. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 35,353. Of these, 29,618 were examined and 5,735 discharged without examination. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 81,855 as compared with Rs. 1,05,183 in 1933. Witnesses.

77. The number of cases disposed of was 42, against 62 in the previous year. Altogether 60 persons were tried, of whom 31 were acquitted and 29 convicted. High Court Sessions.

## APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

### *I.—High Court.*

78. At the opening of the year 150 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 852 appeals were preferred and 720 were decided, leaving 282 pending at its close. Thirty four appeals were preferred to the High Court from the decision of the Special Magistrates appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act, and 28 from those of the Special Tribunals constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act during 1934; and 13 under the former head and 4 under the latter were pending from the previous year. Of these, 56 were disposed of, leaving 19 of the former and 4 of the latter undecided at the end of the year. The orders of Tribunals were confirmed in 39 instances, modified in 7 and reversed in 1. Eight appeals were summarily dismissed, and a retrial was ordered in one. Number of appeals.

79. In all, 615 appeals against sentences of courts of Sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 526, modified in 47 and reversed in 23 instances, while 18 were remanded for retrial. Ninety-nine appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 70, modified in 10 and reversed in 15 instances, while 4 were remanded for retrial. Six appeals against orders of acquittal were preferred by the local Government, of which 5 was confirmed while another was otherwise disposed of. Results.

### *II.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.*

80. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of sessions was 4,766, against 4,695 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,687 persons were concerned. The appeals of Sessions Courts.

2,321 persons or 26·7 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,905 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,473 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 1,770 were acquitted. The cases of 218 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

**Magistrates' courts.**

81. In the courts of magistrates, 2,979 appeals were decided, against 3,512 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 5,542 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 849 were rejected, and the sentences of 2,228, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,077 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 55·5 per cent. of the whole. Of the remainder, 1,052 appellants or 19 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,279 or 23·1 per cent. their total annulment, and the cases of 134 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1933, the results were less favourable to appellants.

**References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code.**

82. Four references made under this section for confirmation of death sentence were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 24 were made during the year. Of these, 23 in which 32 persons were concerned, were decided during the year. Sentences of death were confirmd in the cases of 14 persons and commuted to transportation for life in those of 2 persons; 6 persons were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment—five to 7 years each and one to 10 years, 1 was ordered for retrial and 9 were acquitted.

**Reference under Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925.**

83. During the year 5 references under this Act, in which 13 persons were concerned, were made to the High Court for the confirmation of sentence of death passed on them, and one with 1 person was pending from the previous year. All the six cases were decided during the year. The sentence of death was confirmed in the cases of 9 persons, commuted to transportation for life in the case of one person, and reduced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in the cases of the remaining 4 persons.

**Revision.**

84. During the year, 182 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 30 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these cases 183 were decided during the year, and 29 remained undecided at its close.

**Transfer applications.**

85. Including the number pending from the previous year, there were for disposal 83 applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases from one Court or district to another. Of these, 77 were disposed of and 6 remained pending at the close of the year.

General.

86. The number of offences reported during the year showed an increase of 9,999 over the figure for 1933. The increase was solely under Special and Local Laws; those under the Penal Code fell by nearly 1,500. About 25,000 more cases were decided in the Presidency town than in 1933, while in the mufassal courts the disposals fell by nearly 2,900. The number of appellate and revisional cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal fell by 533 and 72, respectively, compared with the figures for 1933. The results of the appeals as in the previous year varied very little; about 55 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful, and the sentences in respect of the rest were either annulled, altered or otherwise disposed of. In the courts of session the number of cases disposed of was less by 276 than the figure for 1933, while the percentage of convictions of persons rose from 55·3 to 57·5. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session showed a slight increase from 4,695 in 1933 to 4,766 in 1934. The results of the appeals were less favourable to appellants than in the previous year, about 60 per cent. of the original sentences being confirmed, and those of the rest either modified, reversed or otherwise disposed of. The number of applications for revision disposed of in the courts of session was about 49 more than in 1933, and the number of persons concerned in these cases increased by 649. The total number of witnesses examined both in the Presidency town and the mufassal fell from 449,920 in 1933 to 443,825 in 1934; the number of persons detained for more than three days also fell by about 430 as compared with the figure for 1933. The amount paid to witnesses on account of expenses incurred by them for their attendance in magistrates' courts increased by about Rs. 50,000, and in Sessions Courts decreased by about Rs. 23,000. The increase was most marked in the districts of Chittagong and 24-Parganas; the figures being about Rs. 32,000 and 5,000, respectively, over the amounts paid to witnesses in 1933. Twenty persons (16 in the Presidency town, 3 in 24-Parganas and 1 in Dacca) were under trial for offences against the State, against 4 in the previous year. Of these, 5 were acquitted and 15 convicted.

Receipts and charges.

87. After debiting as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amount to Rs. 35,77,482. Of this amount, Rs. 20,69,827 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,46,559 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,46,483 for process servers, Rs. 6,37,677 for other establishments and Rs. 5,76,936, for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 18,13,589. Of this amount, Rs. 9,26,578 were under fines, Rs. 1,20,299 under

process-fees, Rs. 1,82,570 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 5,01,052 under other court-fee stamps receipts and Rs. 83,090 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges were less by nearly Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 2,11,600 respectively, as compared with the figures for 1933. The decrease in receipts occurred chiefly under the heads "court-fee stamps" and "copying and comparing fees", and the drop in expenditure is chiefly due to the decrease in staff charges and contingencies and refunds, which amounted to nearly Rs. 1,98,000.

## Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1934.]

**Judicial staff.**

88. The permanent civil Judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1934 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, three executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and three the powers of a Munsif. One temporary Additoinal Judge of the High Court, was employed throughout the year, and two for about one and half months. There were 13 temporary Additional Judges, 12 temporary Additional Subordinate Judges and 6 temporary Additional Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts. The seventh Bench of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, remained vacant throughout the year. The Hon'ble Sir Harold Derbyshire, KT., K.C., M.C., Barrister-at-Law, assumed the office of the Chief Justice of Bengal on the 12th November 1934.

### ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

### *I.—High Court.*

**Original suits for disposal.**

89. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1934 was 3,893 against 4,708 in the previous year. Of 2,081 suits instituted during 1934, 1,277 were for money or movable property, 163 were for immovable property and 204 were mortgage suits. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 5,21,84,628 as compared with Rs. 17,84,34,379 in the previous year.

90. The number of suits decided in 1934 was 2,387. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,506. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 294. There were 310 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 32 on the figures of the previous year. Original suits disposed of.

91. At the commencement of the year 110 applications for probates, letters of administration and succession certificates were pending, and 540 fresh applications were made during the year. Of these, 534 were disposed of and 116 remained pending at its close. Probates, letters of administration, etc.

92. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 53 and 41 respectively. Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

93. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 856, respectively, and the number instituted under the new Act was 164. Of these 182 were disposed of, and 1,001 cases remained pending at the close of the year. In addition 2,065 miscellaneous applications were disposed of. Insolvency cases.

94. Four appeals to the Privy Council from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and four appeals were admitted during the year. Of these, one was disposed of by the Privy Council and seven remained pending at the close of the year. Appeals to the Privy Council.

95. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including under the head "Expenditure" the salaries of the Judges:— Financial results.

| Year. | Receipts.* | Receipts.† | Expenditure. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1932 .. .. | 23,02,460 | 7,96,028 | 5,71,849 |
| 1933 .. .. | 40,17,169 | 9,43,882 | 6,26,021 |
| 1934 .. .. | 17,87,782 | 7,57,202 | 6,81,720 |

* Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

† Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

*II.—Civil courts in the mufassil subordinate to the High Court.*

96. A fire broke out during the Christmas holidays in the second Munsif's Court room at Burdwan (Sadar) and did considerable damage to both furniture and building. The cause of outbreak of the fire was under enquiry at the close of the year. Damage to a munsifi.

Original suits instituted.

97. The number of suits instituted in 1934 was 734,431, a decrease of 6,004 on the figures of the previous year. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Khulna, 24-Parganas, Bakarganj, Midnapore, Bankura, Jessore, Hooghly, Chittagong, Noakhali, Nadia and Burdwan. The decrease was most marked in Mymensingh, followed by Faridpur, Tippera, Rangpur and Dacca. It occurred in all classes of suits except in title suits in Mymensingh, Tippera and Rangpur and in rent and title suits in Dacca. In spite of the decrease, the largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (62,002), where the number of money suits (21,075) was the greatest in the province.

Original suits disposed of.

98. The number of suits disposed of was 765,058, showing an increase of 5,224 on the figures of 1933. Of the total number, 749,070 were disposed of by Munsifs, 9,237 by Subordinate Judges, 6,508 by Small Cause Court Judges and 243 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase in the Courts of the Munsifs and Small Cause Court Judges and a decrease in those of the Subordinate Judges and District and Additional Judges.

Results of suits decided.

99. Of the suits disposed of, 115,761 were decided without trial, 512,813 *ex parte*, 26,691 on admission of claim, 54,112 on compromise, 55,312 after full trial and 369 on reference to arbitration. Of the 55,312 suits decided after full trial, 47,298 or 85·5 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, and 8,014 or 14·5 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

Applications for retrial.

100. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex parte* judgment, or judgment on default, preferred during the year was 14,252. Of these, 7,258 or 50·9 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

101. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 741,249 to 749,070, an increase of 7,821. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 3,683, against 3,598 in 1933. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 21·3 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

102. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 9,237, a decrease of 2,792 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,805 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 4,432. Of these 29·3 per cent. and 11·8 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after full trial under the ordinary procdure shows a decrease, and that under the Small Cause Court procedure an increase, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

103. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,508 original suits; of which 892 were decided after full trial or 146 more than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

104. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 140,494, against 159,882 in the previous year. Of the pending suits, 2,591 had been pending for more than a year, 58,578 for more than six months and 24,055 for more than three months, representing a decrease in the arrears for each period. Of the suits pending over one year, 1,550 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,041 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing decreases of 878 and 302, respectively, as compared with 1933.

Miscellaneous cases.

105. In addition to 94,235 cases instituted during the year, there were 22,685 cases pending trial from the previous year, 875 were revived and 1,524 were received otherwise, making a total of 119,319 cases for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1934, against 119,124 in 1933. Of these, excluding transfers, 96,171 were disposed of; 104 being applications for probates and letters of administration were treated as suits on becoming contested, and 21,532 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 29,653 were decided without trial, 37,308 ex parte, 1,350 on admission of claim, 12,025 on compromise, 15,825 after full trial and 10 on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases, 202 were pending over a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (54).

Provincial Insolvency Act.

106. The total number of insolvency petitions for disposal during the year was 3,057, against 2,989 in the previous year. Of these, 720 were dismissed. One thousand three hundred and eighty petitioners were adjudged to be insolvents, 987 insolvents were discharged or died, and the cases of 654 petitioners were annulled.

Union courts.

107. There were union courts in all the districts in the Presidency (except Darjeeling and Midnapore) under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and the number of such courts rose to 1,187 against 1,179 in the previous year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 2,13,437 and the expenditure to Rs. 51,285. The total number of suits was 170,406, including 141,197 instituted during the year for money or movable property, representing a total value of Rs. 55,16,156. At the close of the year 19,578 suits remained pending. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 57,890, of which 7,758 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases from the decision of these courts was 895. In 138 cases the petitions were either dismissed or not prosecuted, in 356 confirmed, in 48 modified and in 123

cases the Union Courts' judgment was reversed. Forty-two cases were remanded for retrial and 147 remained pending at the close of the year. The union courts continue to be viewed with appreciation by the public and to be affording relief to the Munsifs.

### *III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.*

Number of suits.

108. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1934 and the number pending at its close were 19,953, 20,460 and 3,757, respectively. The figures show a decrease in the number instituted and disposed of and an increase in the number pending as compared with the previous year. Twenty-six applications were filed under section 528 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1923). The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits. The number of suits, the value of which cannot be estimated in money, was smaller than in the previous year.

Mode of disposal.

109. Of the suits disposed of, 1,064 were decided without trial, 7,508 *ex parte*, 5,059 on admission of claim, 3,505 on compromise, 3,229 after full trial and 95 on reference to arbitration. Of the 3,757 suits pending at the close of the year, 154 were over a year old, against 143 in 1933.

## Appellate Jurisdiction.

### *I.—High Court.*

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

110. One hundred and thirteen appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 86 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 127 were decided and 72 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 11 less than in 1933. On the Appellate Side 15 such appeals were filed during the year and 16 were pending at its commencement. Of these 18 were decided and 13 remained pending at the close of the year.

### *II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.*

Appeals from Subordinate Courts.

111. Two hundred and thirty-eight first appeals were filed during the year, 1,029 were pending at the commencement of the year, and 6 were revived, making a total of 1,273 appeals for disposal, against 1,215 in 1933. Of the total, 203 were disposed of and 1,070 remained pending at the close of the year. During the year 347 appeals from Original Orders were filed and 350 were pending from the previous year, making a total of 697 appeals

for disposal, against 664 in 1933. Of this total, 286 were disposed of and 411 were pending at the end of the year. Two thousand and one hundred second appeals were filed during the year, 4,330 were pending from the previous year and 7 were revived, making a total of 6,437 appeals for disposal against 7,075 in 1933. Of this total 1,734 were disposed of, leaving 4,703 pending at the close of the year. Two hundred and fifty-two appeals from Appellate Orders were filed during the year, 128 were pending from the previous year, making a total of 380 appeals for disposal against 376 in 1933. Of these, 216 were disposed of and 164 remained pending at the end of the year.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

112. The results of five appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. In four of them the decisions of the High Court were reversed and in one the appeal was compromised.

### *III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.*

Appeals for disposal.

113. In addition to 8,698 appeals instituted during the year, there were 5,951 appeals pending from the previous year and 7,427 were received otherwise, making a total of 22,076 appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1934, against 29,773 in 1933. Of the 8,698 appeals instituted during the year against 9,048 in the previous year, 3,878 were in title suits, 3,569 in rent suits and 1,251 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease of 363 and 93 in rent and money suits, respectively and an increase of 106 in title suits.

Appeals disposed of.

114. The number of appeals decided was 10,022, showing decreases of 2,077 and 2,170 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and by Subordinate Judges respectively, as compared with the previous year. The decrease in disposal was spread over sixteen districts and was largest in 24-Parganas (911) followed by Hooghly (740), Jessore (720), Dacca (348), Murshidabad (310) and Khulna (301).

Appeals pending.

115. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 4,762 and was less than that of 1933 by 1,188. The number of appeals over one year old fell from 669 to 413. Hooghly was accountable for the largest number, viz., 164.

Results of appeal.

116. The results of the appeals from the decisions of the lower courts decided during the year were as follows:—In 5,526 cases, or 55·1 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,268 cases or 12·6 per cent. it was modified; and in 1,751 cases or 17·4 per cent. it was reversed; 413 cases or 4·1 per cent. were remanded, and 1,064 cases or 10·6

per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results were more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

**General.**

117. In the High Court there was a decrease in the number of first and second appeals instituted, an increase in the number of first appeals disposed of, and a decrease in the number of second appeals disposed of, as compared with the previous year. The average duration of first appeals was about 3 years and that of second appeals more than 2 years, showing an increase in duration in both the appeals as compared with those of 1933. In the lower Courts there was a decrease in original institutions from the figures of 1933, but the figures for 1934 were still very considerably higher than those of 1932. The number of disposals by Munsifs increased during the year owing to the fact that fewer contested suits were disposed of. Generally speaking disposals increased during 1934, and the number of suits pending fell correspondingly, particularly in respect of year-old suits. The percentage of contested disposals under the ordinary procedure was less, and that under the Small Cause Court procedure was more, than that of 1933. There has been a continued decline in the number of regular appeals disposed of and pending.

**Receipts and charges of Civil Courts.**

118. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,76,72,687, showing a decrease of Rs. 27,11,167, and the charges amounted to Rs. 81,49,922, showing an increase of Rs. 1,85,355 on those of 1933. The details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

*Receipts.*

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| Process fees .. .. .. .. | 25,25,204 |
| Other fees .. .. .. .. | 1,42,79,642 |
| Other receipts .. .. .. .. | 3,15,229 |
| Copying and comparing fees .. .. | 5,48,642 |
| Fines .. .. .. .. | 3,970 |
| Total .. | 1,76,72,687 |

*Charges.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Salaries of Judicial Officers .. .. | 28,98,706 |
| Process servers .. .. .. | 8,70,934 |
| Others .. .. .. .. | 31,06,425 |
| Copyists fees .. .. .. .. | 4,00,100 |
| Contingencies and refunds .. .. .. | 8,73,757 |
| Total .. | 81,49,922 |

119. There was a decrease in receipts only under the head "Other fees," which amounted to more than Rs. 28,97,000. There was an increased expenditure under the heads "Others" and "Contingencies and refunds," in the former case amounting to Rs. 2,16,000 over the figures for 1933.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1934.]

Administration of justice.

120. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921 to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The Courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the principal Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal justice.

121. The number of offences reported during the year 1934 was 368, of which 230 were returned as true and 227 were brought to trial. Five hundred and eighteen persons were under trial, and of these, 241 were acquitted or discharged and 187 convicted. In these cases ending in conviction, 27 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months.

Civil justice.

122. Four hundred and thirty-six civil suits were instituted during this year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 57,508-6. Of the 601 suits before the Courts, all but 99 were disposed of.

# CHAPTER IV.

## Land Revenue Administration.

### Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1934-35.]

**Total collections**

123. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,800 against 101,776 last year. Of these, 93,965 were permanently-settled estates, 4,235 temporarily-settled estates (in which term is included the estates of the recusant proprietors let out in farm and Government estates let out in farm), and 3,600 estates were under the direct management of Government. The current demand was Rs. 3,09,43,252 against Rs. 3,07,91,739 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 1,51,513 was due to the resettlement of temporarily-settled estates (including tea estates) on the termination of the existing leases, to resumption proceedings of the Settlement Department under Act IX of 1847, and to the progressive increase of demand in certain Government estates. The total realisable demand, including arrears of Rs. 1,27,57,219, was Rs. 4,37,00,471, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 3,13,11,149 or 71·64 per cent. of the total and 101·18 per cent. of the current demand, as against 69·42 and 95·80 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total outstanding balance stood at Rs. 1,20,30,383 or 27·52 per cent. of the total demand. There was an encouraging increase in collections over those of the preceding year, but the percentage was still below standard, and the reasons for this were various. By an unfortunate coincidence revisional settlement operations in the districts of Chittagong and Jalpaiguri, where Government-owned estates are most important, ended simultaneously with the commencement of severe economic depression. Major operations elsewhere increased the rent roll just as the prices of staple food crops were falling. The decision taken at the Settlement Conference to cut down excessive contractual rents came too late to alleviate the difficulties appreciably. In Noakhali many tenants, who during a boom period blindly took settlement of lands still under water at high rates of rent and salami, found themselves

still unable to grow any crops. In Pabna diluviated holdings, for which no collections were being made, still appeared in the accounts. In Nadia and Rajshahi realization of large amounts of revenue was suspended pending the disposal by the Privy Council of an appeal preferred as a result of litigation by the Midnapore Zemindary Company, Limited. There were also heavy floods in parts of Rajshahi and Malda. Tenants in East Bengal were adversely affected by the abnormally low price of jute; and generally speaking the economic depression rendered the certificate procedure less effectual than formerly.

Miscellaneous revenue.

124. The total collection of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 4·50 lakhs against 9·01 lakhs in the preceding year.

Redemption of land revenue.

125. The total number of holdings of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under report was 251 against 273 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed during the year was Rs. 268, and the total price realised was Rs. 8,047. The corresponding figures of the preceding year were Rs. 274 and Rs. 8,144, respectively.

Coercive measures (*a*) Sale Law.

126. The number of defaults was 30,646 and sales 1,930 as against 31,169 and 1,826, respectively, in the preceding year. The number of estates exempted under section 18, including those for petty arrears, was 17,137 or 88·7 per cent. of the total number advertised for sale. This indicates that the Sunset Law was administered with leniency.

(*b*) Certificates.

127. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year, other than those for cesses, was 219,018 as against 193,809 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 57·94 against 49·83 in the preceding year. In the majority of cases payment was made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 35,050 cases or 16·01 per cent. of the total number of cases disposed of (218,827) during the year under review.

## Condition of the people.

Condition of the agricultural population.

128. During the year under report, the weather conditions were on the whole favourable in most districts, with a satisfactory effect on the outturn of crops. Some damage to crops was,

however, caused by floods in the Satkhira and Bagerhat subdivisions of Khulna, in parts of the Kushtia and Meherpur subdivisions of Nadia, in Narayanganj subdivision in Dacca, and in parts of the districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Rajshahi, Jessore, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Tippera and Noakhali. On the other hand want of rain caused a certain amount of damage to crops in parts of the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, Rajshahi, and Murshidabad, and to a greater extent in parts of Birbhum and Bankura, producing conditions amounting to agricultural distress. Prompt and adequate measures were, however, taken to meet the situation by opening test relief works and by granting agricultural and land improvement loans and gratuitous relief. The amount of agricultural and land improvement loans distributed during year in the whole Presidency aggregated Rs. 7,97,324.

**General economic conditions.**

129. The material condition of the agricultural population showed some signs of improvement owing to a steady, though not very substantial, rise in the prices of paddy and rice in most of the districts. The price of jute, the essential money crop of the province, also showed a definite improvement, which may reasonably be attributed in considerable measure to the intensive propaganda for jute restriction undertaken by Government. The improvements noticed were not, however, such as to enable to cultivators to clear off their dues to money-lenders, and they were in many cases unable to pay rents due to their landlords. It is, however, a reassuring feature that there was a steady decrease of fresh borrowing and an increase in repayments during the year under report, as compared with the previous year. During the year under report the Bengal Board of Economic Enquiry published some valuable statistics regarding the economic condition of the agricultural classes. The income and expenditure and indebtedness of a large number of families in 1928 and 1933 were compared; and the enquiries showed that, though cash income had decreased by about 50 per cent., there had been a reduction in expenditure of about 40 per cent.

**Debt Conciliation Boards.**

130. In the Chandpur subdivision of Tipperah, Debt Conciliation Boards, not possessed of any statutory powers, were at work, and succeeded in reducing claims of about Rs. 9 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs by arranging amicable agreements between creditors and debtors. In the majority of cases only one creditor was concerned, and a 16 annas settlement of all debts was possible. In some cases the Boards were satisfied with adjustment of the debts of one of several creditors; and in a few cases the amount of the debt settled was as high as Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 40,000.

## Other Revenue Work.

Land Registration.

131. The number of proprietory interests recorded in the land registration registers was 10,77,847 at the beginning of the year under report, as against 10,83,525 at its close. There were 35,222 applications for new registration during the year, and the rewriting of Register D of the districts of Midnapore, Murshidabad and Bakarganj was begun.

Partition.

132. There were 224 partition cases pending at the close of the preceding year; 32 cases were instituted during the year under report; and 237 cases remained pending at the close of the year. In the district of Mymensingh a special officer was employed on partition work throughout the year; and Estates Partition Funds existed in the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca.

Land Acquisition.

133. The total area acquired was 785·68 acres at a total cost of Rs. 72,00,972, as against 1,380,08 acres at a total cost of Rs. 1,76,90,871 in the previous year. Of the total area acquired, 687·78 acres were for the purpose of Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land free of cost by Government, and 97·90 acres were for all other purposes, as compared with 1,112·83 and 267·25 acres, respectively, in the previous year.

Loans, Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Act.

134. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 93,422, while Rs. 45,400 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 56,150 and Rs. 12,083, respectively, of which Rs. 16,211 and Rs. 3,164 were collected. The outstanding balance of agricultural loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 12,31,776, and Rs. 7,51,924 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 12,93,279 and Rs. 1,10,886, and Rs. 5,01,054 and Rs. 49,682 were realised, respectively under those heads.

## Waste lands.

135. No new lease of waste lands was granted in the districts of Chittagong and Darjeeling. In Jalpaiguri an area of 748·3 acres was settled under 57 leases at a total revenue of Rs. 1,172-9 with provision for enhancement with effect from 1935-36. The area of available waste lands in the colonization area

in Bakarganj is 15·4 square miles, of which 11·3 square miles are covered by the Tengagiri Chak. It is in contemplation to convert this chak into a khas mahal Reserved Forest. The remaining area of 4·1 square miles, being still unsuitable for raiyatwari settlement, was settled under Gorekati leases, which yielded a revenue of Rs. 2,163. In connection with the special scheme of raiyatwari settlement of char lands in South Bhola in Bakarganj, as area of 9,669·7 acres was settled. The area still available for settlement is 18,244·5 acres. In Dacca, Char Sealo was settled raiyatwari, while the other chars, which were unfit for cultivation, were let out for grazing purposes. In Faridpur, alluvial formations and town khas mahal lands comprising an area of 583·8 acres were settled at a total rental of Rs. 2,358-11 and selami of Rs. 6,438-11. In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 1,674·2 acres of Char lands was concluded at a total rental of Rs. 5,275-15. In Tippera, the settlement of a char, known as Char Pakshidia, which was taken up last year, was completed and an area of 597 acres was settled at a total rental of Rs. 2,089-8 and selami of Rs. 10,533. The raiyatwari settlement of Char Kantapukur, Block II, and Rupnarain Bihar Char in Howrah was completed. The settlement of Char Dubli in Bankura was offered to the riparian proprietor, but he refused to take settlement on the revenue assessed. Attempts are being made to effect a farming settlement of the char. The big char in the Padma in the district of Pabna, referred to in last year's Report, was taken possession of on behalf of Government after proper survey, and a portion of it was settled at Rs. 50 for two years.

## Government Estates.

Number and management.

136. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals who have refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government, and excluding numerous small holdings in Calcutta, each of which is technically an "estate", as well as the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings Estate in 24-Parganas district, was 3,587 with a total annual demand of Rs. 67,21,556, against 3,466 estates with an aggregate demand of Rs. 66,09,814 in the preceding year. Agricultural demonstrations were carried out in the districts of Jessore, Chittagong, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Malda and Darjeeling. In Faridpur a sixth batch of *bhadralok* youths was allotted lands on the completion of training in the Faridpur Agricultural Farm. In Bakarganj the twenty *bhadralok* youths who were reported to have formed a house building

society in last year's report completed their houses at Char Fasson, and some lands were settled with them. In Noakhali the scheme of settlement of land with men of the *bhadralok* class was cancelled, as they failed to fulfil the conditions of settlement. In Rangpur an area of about 100 acres of agricultural land in khas mahal Mahadebpur was settled with nine educated *bhadralok* youths. There were 4,693 schools in Government estates, with 165,400 pupils during the year under review, against 5,066 schools and 181,335 pupils in the preceding year, showing a considerable decrease in both the number of schools and of pupils.

Grant for management and improvement.

137. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates a sum of Rs. 5,78,841 or 8·5 per cent. of the current demand was spent on management, and Rs. 97,419 or 1·43 per cent. on improvements against 8·36 per cent. and 1·45 per cent., respectively, during the previous year. Of the sum of Rs. 97,419 spent on improvements, Rs. 55,050 was spent on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 10,312 on tanks and wells, Rs. 24,062 on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements, including repairs to roads and bridges, clearing of jungles and agricultural experiments, and a sum of Rs. 7,495 was spent on the improvement of hats and markets in all divisions of the Presidency.

Colonisation of the Sunderbans.

138. A solid block of twenty-two villages with an area of 178 square miles is covered by the Bakarganj colonisation scheme, now in its twenty-eighth year. It is proposed to constitute into a Reserved Forest the Tengagiri Chak with an area of 7,249·01 acres, the only area remaining to be colonised, and the matter is under consideration by the Forest Department. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans (colonisation of which was in its twentieth year) no new area was taken up for reclamation. The total sum advanced by Government for reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Snderbans, and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report, were Rs. 31,00,135 and Rs. 42,31,892, respectively. The general health of the people in the Bakarganj Sunderbans area was good and crops were fair, but as the price of paddy remained still low, there was no material improvement from the economic point of view, many persons remaining heavily indebted to Government and to Co-operative Societies. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans the health of the colonists was not good, and the outturn of crop was lower in comparison with that in the previous year, owing to want of timely rain.

## Wards and Attached Estates.

Number of estates.

139. At the beginning of the year under report the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 124. Five new estates were brought under management of the Court and 4 estates were released during the year. Thus at the close of the year there were 125 estates in charge of the Court.

Payment of revenue and cesses.

140. Out of the aggregate of Rs. 96,84,893 due to Government as revenue and cesses, a sum of Rs. 77,33,845 or 80·2 per cent. of the total was paid during the year, as against 73·4 per cent. in the previous year. In all 64 estates defaulted in payment of full revenue and cess, and with one exception these included all the estates in the districts of Jessore, Rangpur, and Mymensingh. The heavy balance outstanding from the Kasimbazar Raj Estate was mainly due to the decreased income from the khas collieries, and negotiations were proceeding for an amendment of the agreement whereby the Court of Wards manages the estate on behalf of the debenture-holders.

Collection of rent and cesses.

141. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court was Rs. 4,97,48,474 (including an arrear of Rs. 3,15,89,983), of which Rs. 1,73,39,304 or 34·8 per cent. was collected during the year as against 32·2 per cent. in the preceding year. The outstanding balance of rent and cess due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 3,03,63,002, which represented 167·2 per cent. on the current demand, as against 164·8 per cent. in the previous year. The prescribed standard of 100 per cent. on the current demand was reached or exceeded in 29 estates, of which 10 were in the Burdwan division, 3 in the Presidency division, 12 in the Dacca division, and 4 in the Rajshahi division. The excellent results obtained in the Bhowal Estate, where the collection was 116·4 per cent. of the current demand, were due to the enterprise and efficient personal influence of the manager. In spite, therefore, of failure of crops in certain areas owing to drought and excessive floods, a marked improvement was experienced in some of the largest estates, and in nearly all a steady upward trend was noticeable.

Debt of estates.

142. The total amount of ascertained debts of the Court of Wards estates in the Presidency at the close of the year stood at Rs. 3,39,69,781 against Rs. 3,24,86,969 in the preceding year. The increase is due to the assumption of some new estates with heavy debts, to the discovery of fresh liabilities, and to the addition of unpaid interest. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 22,25,315 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced was

Rs. 16,40,257 as compared with Rs. 9,76,220 and Rs. 12,63,543, respectively, in the previous year. In the great majority of estates the sanctioned schemes for repayment of debts could not be followed owing to poor collections.

Management charges.

143. The percentage of the cost of management of the Wards Estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand was 9·7 as in the preceding year.

Improvements.

144. The standards fixed for minimum expenditure on education and works of improvement in solvent estates are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, on the current rent and cess demands. The total sum spent during the year under these heads by the estates amounted to Rs. 5,83,122 against Rs. 5,66,397 in the preceding year. Some of the more important items of expenditure merit particular notice. The Burdwan Raj estate contributed Rs. 72,048 for educational purposes, Rs. 20,367 for three charitable dispensaries, Rs. 12,500 for the Burdwan Fraser Hospital, and Rs. 92,221 for works of improvement. The Mahisadal estate spent Rs. 20,466 in putting cross dams at the mouths of khals to prevent the ingress of salt water, and in protective bundhs. It also donated Rs. 10,000 to the Tamluk Municipality for the sinking of tube wells. The Kasimbazar Raj estate expended Rs. 37,140 on works of miscellaneous improvement and Rs. 20,000 as grant-in-aid to the Krishnath College at Berhampore. The Dacca Nawab estate paid a total sum of Rs. 24,846 under all heads. The Bhowal estate spent Rs. 14,156 on education, Rs. 11,285 in maintaining four charitable dispensaries, Rs. 19,320 on agricultural and sanitary works, and Rs. 39,981 on improvement works. This estate maintained a farm and three agricultural demonstrators, and in January 1935 it organized an exhibition with Agricultural, Veterinary, Health and Industrial Sections which were attended by very large crowds. The Gayhatta estate also maintained an Agricultural Farm and a Demonstrator at its own cost.

## Revenue and rent paying classes.

Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.

145. The districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as well as the town of Calcutta, continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Western Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a modified extent. The Act operated fully in the rest of the province.

Measures to compel the issue of rent receipts.

146. As in previous years very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act when landlords did not give proper rent receipts.

**Relations between landlords and tenants.**

147. Relations between landlords and tenants showed no marked deterioration throughout the year; and except in Midnapore, where a revisional settlement was in progress, in Hooghly, where the raiyats' rents are excessive, and in Mymensingh, where Praja and Krishak Samities were active, it may be said that relations improved. Some landlords found it profitable to follow the example of khas mahals and Court of Wards Estates in giving liberal remissions of interest in order to encourage the tenants to pay at least one year's full demand out of the arrear rents. Except in Bakarganj the relations between khas mahal tenants and the Government tahsildari establishment was as satisfactory as could be expected, in view of the intensive efforts that have been made to improve collections. The realization of abwabs by the collecting staffs of Zemindary estates showed little signs of diminution, and in view of the low rates of pay the practice cannot be prevented. The tenants themselves appear to recognize this, for during the year there was not a single application for relief under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. In Chittagong, however, there were some signs of a growing reluctance to make these payments; and the activities of the Special Officer in the Barind area of Malda tended to prevent illegal exactions being made from Santhals.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1934-35.]

**Land revenue.**

148. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts which are administered under the special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by *jhuming*. One hundred and seventy-nine amalnamas covering an approximate area of 304·15 acres were issued during the year, as against one hundred and twenty-six covering 251·35 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,58,885 against Rs. 159,077 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 61 per cent. of the total demand, including arrears for previous years.

**Forest and other revenues.**

149. The revenue from the forest reserves and Unclassed State Forests increased from Rs. 1,01,072 in the preceding year to Rs. 1,03,463, and the revenue on the Sann grass of the Unclassed State Forests amounted to Rs. 7,540 against Rs. 7,431 in the preceding year. These figures do not include the amount received as revenue in the Chittagong Forest Division on account of the forests in the Hill Tracts. The total demand of *jhum* tax during the year (including the arrear of Rs. 2,500 of the previous year

due from the Chakma Chief) was Rs. 18,682. The whole of this amount was realised. Other revenues including court fees and registration fees amounted to Rs. 42,609 against Rs. 42,691 in the preceding year.

Condition of the people.

150. Rainfall during the year was favourable to crops; the Paddy crop in *jhum* and plough lands was on the whole good, and the cotton crop was fair. Unginned cotton sold at Rs. 3-2 to Rs. 6 per maund against Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund in the previous year. Paddy sold at Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per 100 *aris* as in the preceding year. There was a short and sharp cholera epidemic during the year, starting in the *mela* connected with the installation of the Chakma Chief. The Public Health Department sent officers to reinforce the district medical staff, and inoculation on a large scale effectively checked the epidemic. There were altogether 60 attacks of cholera during the year, and 26 deaths. There were 8 attacks of small-pox, but fortunately none ended fatally.

## Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1934.]

Work of the year.

151. The main programme of the year under report consisted of "post pointing" traverse of an area of 735 square miles in the upland area of 8 thanas in the Rangpur district, of 883 square miles in 7 thanas of Dinajpur and of 179 square miles between the rivers Rupnarayan and Damodar in 3 thanas of Howrah. In addition to this, Theodolite traverses of 145 square miles in the Brahmaputra diara area in the Rangpur district, of 38 square miles in a scattered area covered by 29 villages in 9 thanas of Mymensingh, of 1 square mile in Dacca, of 17 square miles in Noakhali, of 14 square miles in 24-Parganas, of 7 square miles in Khulna, of 4 square miles in Pabna, of 1 square mile in Malda and of 5½ square miles covering some Government Khasmahal lands in the Alipur Buxa Duars Hill Forest in the district of Jalpaiguri were completed during the year under review. Cadastral Survey for the first time was made of 758 square miles in Rangpur district. The total number of map sheets printed during the year was 10·119, involving 9,11,928 pulls against 7,65,780 pulls in the previous year. Two thousand and seventy-six sheets of previous settlements for use in revisional survey and settlement operations, as well 1,215 celluloids for the Rangpur Air Survey area, were printed in blue. Final 1-inch Police Station maps in colours of 31 Police Stations, ¼-inch maps in colours of 6 districts, 1-inch non-final maps of 28 Police Stations, and 4-inch jurisdiction maps in 350 sheets were also printed during the year.

## Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1934.]

**General.**

152. The preparation of a record-of-rights has been completed in respect of 61,675·5 square miles, out of a total area of 65,204 square miles in the Province to which the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act apply.

**Major operations :— Burdwan-Hooghly.**

153. Major settlement operations were in progress in 4 districts, viz., Burdwan-Hooghly, Malda and Rangpur. The programme of work in the Burdwan-Hooghly settlement for the year under report, consisted of (1) pending attestation of 2 square miles in Arambagh subdivision, (2) disposal of objections, (3) printing of records, (4) recovery of Survey and Settlement costs, (5) Case work, (6) Mapping work and (7) Diara Resumption and Jamabandi including the resumptions of the surplus alluvial accretions on the either bank of the Hooghly in the City of Calcutta and Howrah. The attestation of 2 square miles in Arambagh subdivision of the Hooghly district, which could not be finished in the previous year on account of the Civil Disobedience Movement, was completed. The record-of-rights of five hundred and seventy-seven square miles covering 423,786 interests in Burdwan-Hooghly were printed during the year. In addition 27,000 interests of Jalpaiguri, 24-Parganas, Pabna and Dacca were printed in this Settlement Press. The cost rate of printing was annas 2 and 2 pies per interest. Out of the computed demand of Rs. 19,59,148 in 3 blocks of Burdwan district, Rs. 17,77,070 was realised, bringing the percentage of collection up to 90 per cent. of the computed demand. During the year under report 1,000 certificate cases with a total demand of Rs. 77,926 in Burdwan, and a further 8 cases in Hooghly with a total demand of Rs. 29,458, were filed. Of these, 194 cases of Burdwan covering a revenue demand of Rs. 29,452 and one case of Hooghly with a demand of Rs. 797 were satisfied. Ten thousand three hundred and seven objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act were disposed of in the year under report, of which 6,034 were disallowed and the balance were allowed wholly or in part. In addition 1,356 cases under section 105 and 339 cases under section 106 were disposed of. Fair rents were settled in respect of 6,437 raiyati interests and 92 tenures. The enhancement of rent allowed in the case of raiyati holdings was justified under section 30(*b*), Bengal Tenancy Act and did not exceed 2 annas 6 pies per rupee in any case. During the year 1,807 sheets of 16-inch maps covering an area of 800 square miles, 4-inch maps of all the thanas of the Burdwan district and a few thanas of Hooghly, and 2-inch maps

of 6 thanas of Burdwan were completed. Fifty-one diara resumption proceedings in the rivers Kana and Ajoy of Burdwan district, taken up in the previous year, were completed and proprietary settlement of the newly created diara estates was concluded in 29 cases with a total revenue demand of Rs. 2,256. In the remaining cases the estates were kept under khas management owing to the recusancy of the proprietors. In the Howrah Foreshore resumption, proceedings were drawn up and submitted to the Board of Revenue, before which the riparian proprietors filed objections against the proposed resumptions. The records of the area under resumption were attested and the objections disposed of, but no appreciable progress in the assessment of rent and revenue was made, as orders had previously been issued to await the passing of the non-Agricultural Assessment Bill. The work subsequently proceeded under the existing law, and final orders of Government were pending as regards the assessment.

154. The programme of work for the year under report consisted of (1) Jamabandi, (2) Diara, (3) Printing, (4) Final Mapping, (5) Computation and (6) Case work. Only 2 estates were pending for resettlement, the rest having been finished in the previous year. Of these 2 estates, one was completed during the year, and the other was pending for reconciliation of discrepancies with the last settlement records. Out of 23 resumption proceedings of the previous and one of the current year, 6 were confirmed. The programme of computation of costs could not be finished as a large number of interests were affected by these pending resumption cases. Sixteen-inch mapping of the district was completed, and to save the cost of supervision, the work of 4-inch and 2-inch mapping was being done in the Rangpur Settlement Office. The recovery programme for the year was Rs. 4,57,155, out of which Rs. 4,40,022 was actually realised. One hundred and twenty-six cases under section 106 were pending from the previous year, and 220 cases were filed during the year under report. Of these, all except 76 were disposed of. The number of cases under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, was 12,376, of which 11,632 were disposed of and 744 cases remained pending at the close of the year. **Malda.**

155. The programme of work consisted of (1) Cadastral Survey, (2) Attestation, (3) Disposal of objections, (4) Jamabandi, (5) Diara Resumption, (6) Printing, (7) Recovery and (8) Case Work. The block for Cadastral Survey during the year covered 758 square miles, which were completed. The attestation programme covered 1,034 square miles of *Asli* area, containing 469,977 interests in B block, and 177 square miles of diara area in B and C blocks, consisting of 33,456 interests. The total number of **Rangpur.**

objections filed and disposed of during the year was 9,580, which constituted 1 per every 51·3 interests. Diara proceedings under Act IX of 1847 were started on 3 rivers in 3 thanas of the district, the area covered by these proceedings being 6,000 acres. Besides this, proceedings for the resumption of Petbhata Khamar lands under Regulation II of 1819 were drawn up, and the final Rubakari under section 20 of the same Regulation in respect of some of these lands was submitted to the Board of Revenue for confirmation. During the year the records of 385,139 interests of Rangpur and 92,420 interests of Malda were printed in the Presses of this Settlement. Recovery of Survey and Settlement costs in A block began in January 1934, and by the end of September, out of total Mufassil demand of Rs. 3,58,876, a sum of Rs. 2,30,617 or 65 per cent. of the demand was realised. Case work was started on the 16th July 1934. Out of 2,930 cases under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, 1,400 cases were disposed of. Out of 194 cases under section 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, 45 were either withdrawn or dismissed without trial, 1 decided *ex parte* and 148 remained pending for disposal. The work of the Air Survey Company was found to be very satisfactory, as only 20 photographs out of 872 had to be returned for rectification. The following table will show the extent of internal kistwar which had to be done in the blocks photographed:—

| | Total area of block. | Area done in photographs. | Kistwar done on photograph. | Percentage of total Kistwared. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sq. miles. | Sq. miles. | Sq. miles. | |
| B Block .. .. | 1,296 | 975 | 321 | 25 |
| C Block .. .. | 758 | 621 | 137 | 16 |

These figures demonstrate how with experience the ærophoto method is attaining a high degree of perfection; and the constant efforts made in this direction by the Indian Air Survey Company largely contributed to the high standard of accuracy which the survey attained. This Settlement had also to undertake the demarcation of the Cooch Behar boundary, for which purpose Mr. M. O. Carter, I.C.S., the Settlement Officer, was appointed as Boundary Commissioner. He successfully settled the boundary dispute to the entire satisfaction of both parties. Finally it may be noted that a large number of Civil and Police Officers were trained in Survey and Settlement work in Rangpur district during the cold weather of 1933-34.

156. Minor settlement operations were undertaken in 9 districts, Dacca, Tipperah, Noakhali, Bakarganj, Mymensingh, Pabna, 24-Parganas, Khulna, Jalpaiguri and Midnapore. The work done in Dacca during the year under report consisted of (*a*) Settlement of land revenue in 63·90 square miles, (*b*) Resumption of surplus alluvial accretions in respect of an area of 1 square mile, (*c*) 16-inch mapping of 77·28 square miles, (*d*) Final copying and publication of 88·03 square miles and (*e*) making over of finally published records and maps of 714 estates to the Collectorate. The number of estates resettled in the operation was 731, and the total net increase of revenue secured from this resettlement was Rs. 31,800, to which is to be added a sum of Rs. 1,188 a year obtained as the result of diara proceedings. **Minor operations:—Dacca.**

157. No new estate was taken up for settlement of land revenue, but the work pending from the previous year was finished. Three diara resumption proceedings started during the preceding year were completed, and a net revenue of Rs. 2,071-12 a year was secured. **Tipperah.**

158. The final programme of the operation in this district covered 94 estates, consisting of 45 Government estates and 49 temporarily settled private estates and covering an area of 517 square miles, to which 10 square miles of recent formations were subsequently added for the purpose of diara resumption. The area dealt with in this operation lay mainly in the islands at the mouth of the Meghna river, which are almost inaccessible during the major part of the year. For the purpose of convenience the area was divided into 4 blocks. During the year under report the programme of work consisted of (1) disposal of pending objections, (2) conclusion of statistics and final janch of the last two blocks and (3) settlement of land revenue and fair rents and other subsequent stages pending in 2nd block. All objections under sections 103A, 104E and 115, Bengal Tenancy Act, were disposed of, and the other stages of the proceedings were completed. The net increase of revenue, including the enhancement proposed in the estates which were pending for confirmation, was expected to amount to Rs. 1,83,670. **Noakhali.**

159. Out of 623 Government and temporarily settled private estates taken up for resettlement, 613 were completed in the previous year, resettlement of 5 estates was concluded during the year under report and the remaining 5 were in the process of completion. As a result of resettlement of 5 estates a net increase of Rs. 8,664 in revenue was secured. During the year field work was confined mainly to a recently purchased Government estate No. 3844, Parganna Salimabad, which lies scattered over 346 **Bakarganj.**

villages in 8 thanas of Khulna and Bakarganj. As a result of resettlement of the estates done up to the present moment, a net increase of revenue of Rs. 3,15,514 a year was secured.

**Mymensingh.**

160. The number of estates notified for resettlement in this district was 595, of which 103 were Government estates and 492 temporarily settled privates estates. The operation was divided into two blocks for the sake of convenience. All the work up to the stage of draft publication was completed in the 1st block, which covered an area of 99 square miles. Out of 896 objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, 306 were disposed of. A preliminary Rate Report of 55 estates were written and approved by the Settlement Officer, and the estates were made ready for actual settlement of fair rents.

**Pabna.**

161. The operations in this district were finally concluded during the year. The work done in the year under report was completion of resettlement of the Government estate Char Kurulia, and preparation of a record-of-rights for settlement of land revenue of the temporarily settled private estate Char Ashutosh. As a result of resettlement in the whole operation an increase in revenue of Rs. 35,528 was secured, and an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 was expected to be obtained from the remaining Mahal Char Ashutosh.

**24-Parganas-Khulna.**

162. The sanctioned programme of operation in these two districts was resettlement of 219 Government estates and 36 temporarily settled private estates. During the year under report the work was taken up in 23 estates, the term of resettlement of which expired in March 1935. The records of these estates were prepared and concluded in final janch. Rent settlement proceedings were also taken up and were in progress at the close of the year.

**Jalpaiguri.**

163. The operation in this district was started in 1931. During the year under report the following work was done:—(*a*) cadastral survey of Buxa area, (*b*) rent settlement of Tahsil Ambari Falkata (Tauzi No. 85), Tahsil Alipur Duar (Tauzi No. 86), Tahsil Bhalka (Tauzi No. 87) and Sonthal Colony, (*c*) final mapping of the whole area, (*d*) miscellaneous work such as preparation of new Jurisdiction lists and forest mapping. In the year under report the final confirmation reports of the estates Ambari, Falkata, Maynaguri, Alipur Duar and Bhalka Tahsil were confirmed, and those of Falakata and Sonthal Colony awaited confirmation. In the event of the last two estates being confirmed the net increase in revenue secured during the present

operation will be Rs. 2,75,703. This settlement had also to conclude resettlement of 12 ijara hats at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, and the net increase expected in this connection was Rs. 2,000.

Midnapore.

164. The operation in this district cover 692 square miles, including the additional areas within the periphery of estates Majnamutha and Jalamutha which were subsequently added to the original programme in order to correct discrepancies in the boundaries. The main work programme for the year under report was (1) cadastral survey of 354 square miles, (2) attestation of the area under cadastral, (3) preparation of milan khasra and (4) submission of preliminary proposals for settlement for fair rents. The total number of objections filed under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act was 7,600, of which 4,259 were disposed of. Preliminary proposals for settlement of fair rents in 6 estates comprising a total area of 283 square miles were submitted and confirmed by the Board of Revenue. Settlement of fair rents was in progress.

# CHAPTER V.

## Revenue and Finance.

### Imperial Revenue and Finance, 1934-35.

**Receipts.**

165. The total revenue for the year 1934-35 from central heads amounted to Rs. 20,79,62,000 against Rs. 19,26,41,000 in 1933-34. Increases occurred chiefly under the heads "Customs", "Taxes on income" and "Ports and Pilotage", and were due mainly to the slight improvement in economic conditions. The increase under "Customs" was also partly accounted for by the excise duty on matches and sugar, which brought in a revenue of Rs. 47,88,000. The increase in total revenue would have been larger but for smaller receipts under the heads "Salt" and "Civil works". The decrease under the former head was due to a decline in the consumption of salt during the first 6 months of the year, as a result of a large clearance in February 1934 in apprehension of an impending rise in salt duty. The smaller receipt under "Civil works" was due to the fact that the receipt in the previous year included recovery of arrear rent from the Posts and Telegraph Department.

**Expenditure.**

166. The expenditure under central heads during 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 1,45,11,000, against the actual of Rs. 1,37,70,000 in the previous year. The increase occurred mainly under the following heads:—(1) "Customs", due to larger expenditure under "Pay and allowances" and to additional cost involved on account of collection of excise duty on matches and sugar. (2) "Taxes on income", due mainly to larger expenditure under "Pay, allowances and contingencies". (3) "Ports and Pilotage", due partly to special charges incurred for reconditioning the S. P. V. "Fraser" and partly to larger expenditure under pilotage fees. (4) "Public Health", due to the fact that the actuals for 1933-34 included recovery of charges on account of the Port Health Establishment, Calcutta, for 1932-33 and 1933-34, whereas no such recovery was made during 1934-35. (5) "Superannuation", due to increase in the number of pensioners. (6) "Miscellaneous", due to a change of classification of expenditure for the Kidderpore Orphanganj Market. The increase would have been larger but for savings effected under the head "Interest on ordinary debt" by reason of reduction in interest charges by conversion of war loans bearing high rates of interest.

*Statement of Receipts—*

167.

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Major heads. | Actuals, 1933-34. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| I—Customs .. .. .. | 12,80,99 | 14,02,37 |
| II—Taxes on Income .. .. .. | 3,70,19 | 4,33,59 |
| III—Salt .. .. .. | 2,39,88 | 2,08,63 |
| X—Payments from Indian States .. | 68 | 68 |
| XVI—Interest .. .. .. | 10,19 | 10,65 |
| XVII—Administration of Justice .. | 3 | .. |
| XX—Ports and Pilotage .. .. | 16,62 | 18,10 |
| XXII—Public Health .. .. | 15 | 8 |
| XXVI—Miscellaneous Department .. | 1,21 | 1,38 |
| XXVII—Currency .. .. | 11 | 11 |
| XXX—Civil Works .. .. .. | 4,04 | 1,41 |
| XXXII—Receipts in aid of superannuation .. | 1,95 | 2,22 |
| XXXV—Miscellaneous .. .. | 37 | 40 |
| Total .. | 19,26,41 | 20,79,62 |

*Statement of Expenditure—*

168.

| Major heads. | Actuals, 1933-34. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1—Customs .. .. .. | 19,40 | 22,82 |
| 2—Taxes on Income .. .. | 11,77 | 12,62 |
| 3—Salt .. .. .. | 2,87 | 2,92 |
| 19—Interest on ordinary debt .. .. | 15,61 | 14,43 |
| 20—Interest on other obligations .. | 23,15 | 22,91 |
| 22—General Administration .. .. | 20 | 19 |
| 23—Audit .. .. | 8,61 | 8,92 |
| 24—Administration of Justice .. .. | 38 | 29 |
| 26—Police .. .. | 94 | 95 |
| 27—Ports and Pilotage .. .. | 11,71 | 12,61 |
| 28—Ecclesiastical .. .. .. | 1,66 | 1,61 |
| 29—Political .. .. .. | 72 | 68 |
| 33—Public Health .. .. .. | 5 | 87 |
| 37—Miscellaneous Departments .. .. | 66 | 58 |
| 41—Civil Works .. .. .. | 8,42 | 8,49 |
| 44—Territorial and Political pensions .. | 6,36 | 6,16 |
| 45—Superannuation allowances and pensions | 24,50 | 27,21 |
| 46—Stationery and Printing .. .. | 2 | 2 |
| 47—Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 7 | 05 |
| 51A—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Government .. | .. | .. |
| 52—Extraordinary charges .. .. | 56 | 18 |
| 61—Payments to retrenched personnel .. | 4 | .. |
| Total .. | 1,37,70 | 1,45,11 |

## Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1934-35.]]

**Imports.**

169. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal, during the year was 14,005,861 maunds, as against 12,328,620 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 13·60 per cent. Calcutta received 13,044,782 maunds of 93·14 per cent. and Chittagong 961,079 maunds or 6·86 per cent. of the whole; the percentages for 1933-34 were 92·39 per cent. and 7·61 per cent., respectively.

**Consumption and prices.**

170. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 13,269,488 maunds, against 14,695,192 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was 8 pies more than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 55, against Rs. 56 in the previous year, while that of Port Said salt in Chittagong was Rs. 33 against Rs. 52.

## Income-tax.

**General conditions.**

171. While it is true that the country has not yet completely recovered from the economic crisis through which it has been passing for several years, trade conditions during the year 1933-34, on the income of which the assessments of this year were based, were on the whole better than in the year immediately preceding. Tea, oil, iron and steel companies improved considerably during the year under review, and the Jute manufacturing industry also showed some advance. The increase in revenue from Tea alone was about 400 per cent. over that of the last year, but it was to a considerable extent offset by a corresponding fall in revenue resulting from assessments made on banking, insurance and electricity concerns, which were still struggling in the throes of economic depression. The profits of coal, mining and tramway companies remained steady at approximately last year's level; but rice-mills, brick-fields and fisheries, which provide the bulk of the revenue in outlying districts, did not fare any better than in the previous year. The prices of jute, paddy and rice, which are the staple crops of the agriculturists in this Province, also ruled low throughout the year; while silk, which is the home industry in some parts of the districts of Malda, Birbhum and Murshidabad, showed signs of still further decay. The position of the village money lender in this Province seems to have gone from bad to worse, partly owing to the acute distress resulting from natural causes such as the floods in East Bengal, and partly on account of the continuance of low prices resulting in the inability of the agriculturist to pay interest at the rate fixed, much less to return any part of the capital borrowed.

172. The assessed income for the year under review was Rs. 29,72,78,351, as against Rs. 26,84,37,764 of the previous year. The basic figure of 1920-21 as revised up to March 1935 is Rs. 62,61,09,387. The assessed income for 1934-35 being far below the basic figure, the local Government derived no benefit from Devolution Rule 15. The Indian Finance Act, 1934, continued the "Summary Procedure" for the assessment of lower grade incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,999. This Act brought in a revenue of Rs. 9,88,805 in income-tax from assessment on lower incomes, and of Rs. 82,61,413 on account of surcharges, as compared with Rs. 9,51,690 and Rs. 73,32,241, respectively, during the previous year. The total net collections from all sources of income in the year under report were Rs. 2,66,73,885 as income-tax and Rs. 1,34,58,001 as super-tax, as compared with Rs. 2,54,06,262 and Rs. 1,01,78,530, respectively, in the previous year. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue. Receipts.

## Provincial Revenue and Finance, 1934-35.

173. Excluding an opening balance of Rs. 13,52,000, the receipts for the year 1934-35 totalled Rs. 11,65,38,000 or Rs. 2,06,87,000 more than in the previous year. More than Rs. 1½ crores of this increase was accounted for by the grant to Bengal of half the export duty on jute, and the rest was mainly covered by an unusual arrear collection of land revenue and an increased advance from the Provincial Loans Fund. The expenditure during the year totalled Rs. 11,48,79,000, or Rs. 34½ lakhs more than in 1933-34. Of this increase, approximately Rs. 30 lakhs was accounted for by increased interest and pensionary charges, additional expenditure on roads from the Central Road Development Fund and from the proceeds of the tax on motor vehicles, and increased loans and advances by Government. The sanctioned estimates provided for an opening balance of Rs. 12,86,000, a total receipt of Rs. 9,76,05,000, a total expenditure of Rs. 11,70,55,000 and a loan of Rs. 1,94,18,000 from the Provincial Loans Fund to meet the deficit, the balance of Rs. 13,54,000 of the Famine Relief Fund being earmarkd in the closing balance. In actual fact, however, the opening balance was Rs. 66,000 above the estimate, and including a supplementary grant of Rs. 10,25,000, the actual receipts were Rs. 1,89,33,000 over the estimates. As the actual expenditure was Rs. 32,01,000 below expectation, the year closed, not with a deficit of Rs. 1,94,18,000, but with a balance of Rs. 30,11,000. General.

**Receipts.**

174. It was estimated that the receipts under the six main heads of revenue, viz., Land Revenue, Excise, Stamps, Forests, Registration and Scheduled Taxes would amount to Rs. 7,98,22,000; but the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 8,20,56,000. Abnormal collection of arrear land revenue mainly accounted for the bulk of the above increase, though Forests, Registration and Scheduled Taxes also contributed something. The receipts from Excise and Stamps on the other hand fell below expectation by Rs. 13,31,000. The increases under the main heads of revenue, together with the grant of Rs. 1,58,24,000 in respect of half the jute export duty, mainly accounted for the excess of Rs. 1,89,33,000 over the sanctioned estimates.

**Expenditure.**

175. Including provision of Rs. 1,26,000 and Rs. 10,30,000 for new recurring and non-recurring expenditure, respectively, and a supplementary grant of Rs. 3,35,000, the grant available for expenditure on revenue account in 1934-35 was Rs. 11,32,04,000. The actual expenditure, which amounted to Rs. 11,08,02,000, resulted in a saving of Rs. 24,02,000. The savings occurred mainly under the following heads:—(1) "14—Interest", due to smaller capital outlay on the Damodar Canal. (2) "22—General Administration", due to smaller expenditure for "Pay, allowances and contingencies." (3) "25—Jails and convict settlements", due to smaller expenditure on account of diet, clothing and bedding of prisoners. (4) "31—Education—Transferred", due to payment of a smaller grant to the Calcutta University. (5) "32—Medical", due mainly to payment of a smaller contribution to the Government of Bihar and Orissa for the two mental hospitals at Ranchi. (6) "41—Civil Works", non-utilisation in full of the provision for Road Development Fund Works and for works to be financed out of the Motor Vehicles Tax Act proceeds, and smaller expenditure for "Repairs" and "Establishment", accounted for the decrease under this head. (7) "47—Miscellaneous", due partly to smaller expenditure on prisoners detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930, and partly to non-utilisation of the "Reserve" of Rs. 40,000 provided in the original estimate. The sanctioned estimate for capital expenditure was Rs. 48,76,000, including a supplementary grant of Rs. 6,90,000, against which the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 40,77,000. The greater part of the saving was due to slower progress of work on the Damodar Canal and a smaller expenditure under the head "Subvention from Central Road Development Account." The reductions made by Government as a measure of retrenchment were taken into account in fixing the original budget estimate; and the system of the control of expenditure introduced in 1925 with a view to checking its progress against the sanctioned grant was continued during the year and proved to be useful.

Budget Review of the year.

176. In his Budget speech for the year 1935-36 the Hon'ble Finance Member reviewed the progress made by Provincial Finance during the year under report. He pointed out that the improvement in the financial position was due, not to any substantial recovery in the yield from provincial sources of revenue, but to the payment to Bengal by the Government of India of a grant equal to half the proceeds of the jute export duty. The course of agricultural prices was not favourable to a substantial recovery, and receipts from the five main heads of Revenue, viz., Land Revenue, Excise, Stamps, Forests and Registration, was still Rs. 2 crores below those for the year 1929-30. The expenditure upon anti-terrorist measures, moreover, constituted a stumbling block to financial recovery. The sum required for this purpose had risen from Rs. 21½ lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 57 lakhs in 1934-35, and the budget for 1935-36 provided for as less a sum than Rs. 62½ lakhs under this head above. The Hon'ble Member pointed out to the House that the promoters of anarchy had involved the Province in a total expenditure of Rs. 262½ lakhs in 5 years, and commented upon the fact that, if it had not been for civil disobedience and terrorism, the deficit debt of Bengal would have been less than Rs. 3 crores, instead of nearly Rs. 5½ crores, and the excess of expenditure over receipts would have been a mere Rs. 6¾ lakhs instead of Rs. 69 lakhs. It was nothing short of a catastrophe that movements subversive of law and order should have placed such a large additional burden on the resources of the Province. Despite these difficulties it was intended to press with vigour Bengal's claim to a just financial settlement, which would permit of the development of the more beneficial activities of Government beyond the present inadequate standards.

*Statement of Receipts—*

177.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees].

| Heads. | Budget. 1933-34. | Budget. 1934-35. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| III—Salt .. .. .. .. | 2,12 | 2,00 | 1,19 |
| V—Land Revenue .. .. .. | 3,21,14 | 3,15,46 | 3,43,85 |
| VI—Excise .. .. .. | 1,34,06 | 1,42,00 | 1,36,66 |
| VII—Stamps .. .. .. | 2,87,14 | 2,94,00 | 2,86,03 |
| VIII—Forest .. .. .. | 15,03 | 15,26 | 17,82 |
| IX—Registration .. .. .. | 19,67 | 19,00 | 22,43 |
| IXA—Scheduled Taxes .. .. | 11,22 | 12,50 | 13,77 |
| XII—Subsidised Companies .. .. | 28 | 35 | .. |
| XIII—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept .. .. .. | —3,04 | —6,49 | —5,68 |

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

| Heads. | Budget. 1933-34. | Budget. 1934-35. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| XIV—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which no capital accounts are kept .. .. | 1,71 | 2,60 | 2,56 |
| XVI—Interest .. .. .. | 5,42 | 3,98 | 6,83 |
| XVII—Administration of Justice .. .. | 13,23 | 12,54 | 15,19 |
| XVIII—Jails and Convict Settlements .. | 7,47 | 6,81 | 6,51 |
| XIX—Police .. .. .. | 11,18 | 11,15 | 11,72 |
| XX—Ports and Pilotage .. .. | 90 | 77 | 94 |
| XXI—Education .. .. .. | 13,56 | 13,69 | 14,40 |
| XXII—Medical .. .. .. | 8,36 | 9,97 | 10,83 |
| XXIII—Public Health .. .. .. | 1,23 | 1,37 | 1,35 |
| XXIV—Agriculture .. .. .. | 6,03 | 5,46 | 5,74 |
| XXV—Industries .. .. .. | 9,23 | 7,98 | 8,97 |
| XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments .. | 12,88 | 13,04 | 14,61 |
| XXX—Civil Works .. .. .. | 12,49 | 18,82 | 13,77 |
| XXXII—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund .. | 10 | 56 | 1,66 |
| XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation .. | 1,22 | 1,39 | 1,21 |
| XXXIV—Stationery and Printing. .. .. | 4,89 | 4,50 | 4,54 |
| XXXV—Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 7,40 | 8,29 | 4,21 |
| XXXIXA—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments .. | .. | 1,44 | 1,59,68 |
| XL—Extraordinary Receipts .. .. | 85 | 1,00 | 1,92 |
| Receipts in England .. .. .. | —4 | 3 | 2 |
| Total Revenue receipts .. | 9,05,73 | 9,19,47 | 11,02,73 |
| Transfer from Famine Relief Fund .. .. | .. | 60 | .. |
| Famine Relief Fund .. .. .. | 68 | 84 | 57 |
| Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research .. .. .. | 65 | 61 | 67 |
| Deposit account of the grant made by the Indian Central Cotton Committee .. .. | 1 | .. | 2 |
| Deposit account of grant from Central Government for the development of hand-loom industries .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 35 |
| Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses .. | 1,05 | .. | .. |
| Advances from Provincial Loans Fund .. | 20,06 | 25,66 | 30,26 |
| Government of India .. .. .. | 1,56,02 | 1,94,18 | .. |
| Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt | 38 | .. | 40 |
| Subvention from Central Road Development Account .. .. .. .. | 12,49 | 13,70 | 13,21 |
| Suspense .. .. .. .. | 5,69 | 5,50 | 8,08 |
| Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal .. .. .. | 11,77 | 9,67 | 9,09 |
| Total Receipts on Capital account .. | 2,08,80 | 2,50,76 | 62,65 |
| Total .. .. | 11,14,53 | 11,70,23 | 11,65,38 |
| Opening balance in Famine Relief Fund .. | 12,93 | 12,86 | 13,51 |
| Other opening balances .. .. | 33 | .. | 1 |
| Total opening balance .. .. | 13,26 | 12,86 | 13,52 |
| Grand Total .. .. | 11,27,79 | 11,83,09 | 11,78,90 |

*Statement of Expenditure—*

178.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

| Heads. | Actuals, 1933-34. | Budget, 1934-35. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 5—Land Revenue .. .. .. | 37,33 | 38,97 | 39,03 |
| 6—Excise .. .. .. | 17,54 | 17,24 | 16,60 |
| 7—Stamps .. .. .. | 4,30 | 4,95 | 4,89 |
| 8—Forest .. .. .. | 14,19 | 14,48 | 14,70 |
| 8A—Forest—Capital outlay charged to revenue | 23 | 29 | 20 |
| 9—Registration .. .. .. | 17,51 | 17,21 | 17,70 |
| 9A—Scheduled taxes .. .. .. | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 14—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept .. .. .. | 18,10 | 24,28 | 22,00 |
| 15—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue .. | 12,95 | 10,05 | 11,05 |
| 15(1)—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from Famine Relief grants .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works .. | 2 | 36 | 7 |
| 19—Interest on ordinary debt .. .. | 9,77 | 14,07 | 15,62 |
| 20—Interest on other obligations .. .. | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 21—Reduction or avoidance of debt .. | 38 | .. | 40 |
| 22—General Administration .. .. | 1,21,53 | 1,23,08 | 1,21,47 |
| 24—Administration of Justice .. .. | 96,56 | 95,48 | 94,57 |
| 25—Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. | 43,49 | 44,89 | 43,62 |
| 26—Police .. .. .. | 2,22,72 | 2,24,65 | 2,24,68 |
| 27—Ports and Pilotage .. .. .. | 4,61 | 5,68 | 5,66 |
| 30—Scientific Departments .. .. | 28 | 29 | 31 |
| 31—Education (Reserved) .. .. | 12,07 | 12,31 | 12,18 |
| 31—Education (Transferred) .. .. | 1,14,43 | 1,16,71 | 1,15,40 |
| 32—Medical .. .. .. | 48,79 | 49,41 | 48,21 |
| 33—Public Health .. .. .. | 37,36 | 36,98 | 36,02 |
| 34—Agriculture .. .. .. | 23,75 | 23,80 | 23,53 |
| 35—Industries .. .. .. | 11,67 | 12,21 | 11,84 |
| 37—Miscellaneous Departments .. .. | 2,02 | 2,22 | 2,14 |
| 41—Civil Works .. .. .. | 76,20 | 94,03 | 80,24 |
| 43—Famine Relief .. .. .. | 10 | 56 | 1,73 |
| 45—Superannuation allowances and pensions .. | 55,52 | 58,45 | 59,61 |
| 45A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 46—Stationery and Printing .. .. | 19,04 | 18,95 | 18,61 |
| 47—Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 19,21 | 23,49 | 21,47 |
| 52—Extraordinary charges .. .. | .. | 2,50 | 2,50 |
| Expenditure in England .. .. | 39,87 | 41,00 | 41,90 |
| Total expenditure from ordinary revenue .. | 10,81,66 | 11,28,69 | 11,08,02 |

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

| Heads. | Actuals, 1933-34. | Budget, 1934-35. | Actuals, 1934-35. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 52A—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue | .. | .. | .. |
| 55—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to revenue)— | | | |
| In India .. .. .. | 9,04 | 6,93 | 2,34 |
| In England .. .. .. | .. | 12 | .. |
| 60—Civil Works (not charged to revenue)— | | | |
| In India .. .. .. | 1,45 | 33 | 1,28 |
| In England .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue) .. .. .. | 4,23 | 5,72 | 4,87 |
| Famine Relief Fund .. .. .. | 10 | 1,16 | 1,66 |
| Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research .. .. .. | 59 | 61 | 74 |
| Deposit Account—Cotton Committee .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses .. | 1,35 | 23 | 22 |
| Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund .. | 38 | .. | 40 |
| Subvention from Central Road Development Account .. .. .. | 5,94 | 12,38 | 7,17 |
| Suspense .. .. .. | 5,68 | 5,60 | 7,50 |
| Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal .. | 3,85 | 8,78 | 14,56 |
| Total expenditure on capital accounts .. | 32,61 | 41,86 | 40,77 |
| Total expenditure .. | 11,14,27 | 11,70,55 | 11,48,79 |
| Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund .. | 13,51 | 12,54 | 12,42 |
| Other closing balances .. .. .. | 1 | .. | 17,69 |
| Total closing balance .. | 13,52 | 12,54 | 30,11 |
| Grand Total .. | 11,27,79 | 11,83,09 | 11,78,90 |

## Stamps.

[Report on the Administration of the Stamp Department in Bengal for the triennium ending the 31st March 1935.]

Revenue and charges.

179. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 2,93,97,106 during the year 1934-35, showing an increase of Rs. 42,992 or ·15 per cent. on those of 1933-34. The increase was wholly on account of non-judicial stamps. The total charges during the year were Rs. 12,83,771 against Rs. 10,71,303 in the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

180. The sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 2,09,56,904 in 1933-34 to Rs. 2,07,86,977 in 1934-35. The decrease was shared by all the Divisions except two, viz., Burdwan and Rajshahi, which yielded a net increase of Rs. 1,47,511 and Rs. 46,797, respectively. Amongst the districts in the other three Divisions, Calcutta alone accounted for a decrease of Rs. 4,41,987, which was chiefly due to a decrease in receipts on account of probate duties as compared with the preceding year and also to a certain extent to a fall in litigation. The decline in general, was attributed to a large drop in the number and value of money suits owing to the continuance of the general economic depression.

Non-judicial stamps.

181. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 77,50,632 in the previous year to Rs. 79,62,833 in 1934-35. This included the sale-proceeds of half-anna, one-anna, two-anna and four-anna revenue stamps amounting to Rs. 8,79,995 in 1934-35, against the assignment of Rs. 11,30,000 which was formerly made to Bengal annually on account of unified stamps estimated to be used for revenue purposes and included in the receipts for the year 1933-34, besides the sum of Rs. 30,187 derived from the sale of "New Revenue Stamps" during the year. The increase occurred under almost all kinds of stamps.

Sale of stamps.

182. The number of licensed stamp vendors was 4,259 against 4,608 in the previous year, while the amount of discount allowed to them increased from Rs. 2,65,628 to Rs. 2,78,573 in 1934-35. No serious irregularities by stamp vendors were brought to light during the period under report.

Deficient duty.

183. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 increased from 1,508 in 1933-34 to 2,268 in 1934-35, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 13,018 to Rs. 21,724. The number of cases dealt with by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act also rose from 1,890 to 2,974, but the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases fell from Rs. 2,04,468 to Rs. 51,234 in 1934-35.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

184. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 383 against 462 in the previous year. Of the 424 persons brought to trial, 401 were convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 470 and 455. The fines imposed and the amount paid in rewards to informers in 1934-35 were Rs. 3,955 and Rs. 3,200 as compared with Rs. 3,956 and Rs. 2,392, respectively, in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court-Fees Act.

185. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1934-35, including those pending at the beginning of the year, complete enquiries were made into 66 per cent. against 71 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of the deficit duty to the amount originally realised was 17 per cent. against 27 per cent. in the previous year.

Important changes in administration of stamp and Court-Fees Act.

186. New half-anna, one-anna, two-anna and four-anna revenue stamps were introduced with effect from the beginning of the year 1934-35 on the abolition of unified stamps previously used for revenue purposes, and as a result of this the fixed assignment amounting to Rs. 11,30,000, which was payable to this Government by the Government of India on account of the provincial share of sale-proceeds of unified stamps credited to non-postal revenues, was discontinued from that date. The revenue derived from the sale of such stamps amounted to Rs. 8,79,995 during the year.

## Excise.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, 1934-35.]

Administration.

187. The auction system of settlement of country spirit shops, which was introduced as an experimental measure in certain districts, proved unsuccessful owing to speculative bids, and the fixed-fee system was reverted to during the year under review. A reduction in the rates of duty on and the retail selling prices of country spirit was also effected. The intensive drive against illicit distillation and other breaches of the Excise Laws launched by the Detection Branch of the Department, coupled with the measures mentioned above, resulted in an improvement in the licit consumption of and revenue from country spirit. It was found, however, that malpractices were still rife, in spite of a large number of successful prosecutions. The Licensing Boards continued to function satisfactorily in all the districts of the Presidency except Darjeeling, where the Excise Advisory Committees were in force. The recommendations of the Boards and Committees in respect of the number and location of shops were accepted in every case.

Revenue.

188. During the year the total excise revenue rose from Rs. 1,34,63,186 to Rs. 1,37,49,639, i.e., 2·1 per cent., the increase being under all heads except opium and hemp drugs. The largest increase amounting to Rs. 1,36,525 was under receipts from country spirit, followed by Rs. 1,04,720 under receipts from country fermented liquors and Rs. 1,02,209 under miscellaneous receipts, which was largely due to increased receipt from pass fees on denatured spirit. The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 4 annas 4 pies against 4 annas 3 pies in the preceding year.

189. The total number of licences for retail sale of country spirit remained practically unchanged during the year, but for the reasons stated in the first preceding paragraph there was a general increase in consumption by 19·6 per cent. The figures of consumption in the industrial areas of the districts of Calcutta, 24-Parganas and Howrah showed a noticeable increase. Country spirit.

190. Licences for the retail vend of fermented *tari* were settled by auction throughout the province. The bulk of the revenue from *tari* representing 97·8 per cent. of the total is obtained from the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and the district of Malda, while the districts of Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah, in which the tree-tax system of taxation is in force, contributed 84 per cent. There was a slight increase in the total number of retail *tari* licences, which was 464; and the total receipts from tree-tax and licence fees amounted to Rs. 7,80,344 against Rs. 6,95,960 in the previous year. A keen competition for shops at the auctions resulted in an increase in licence fees. *Tari.*

191. During the year the retail price of *pachwai* in fixed-fee shops was reduced by Rs. 4 per maund and the scale of licence fees revised. The total number of *pachwai* licences issued was 63,482 as compared with 60,270 in 1933-34. The total revenue derived from *pachwai* licences increased from Rs. 9,32,679 to Rs. 9,53,015. The variety of fermenting agent known as "bakhar" was declared to be an "intoxicating drug," and the enforcement of the restrictions imposed on the manufacture and sale of "bakhar" resulted in a better working of *pachwai* shops. *Pachwai.*

192. The total revenue under the head foreign liquors, including beer and commercial spirits, rose from Rs. 15,62,863 to Rs. 16,16,098. There was an increase in the importation of beer and potable spirits from foreign countries, whilst the decline in the import of Java spirits (rum denatured on arrival) is ascribed to the growing demand for locally manufactured spirits which are lower in price. There was an increase in the number of licences for the retail sale of medicated wines, which was mainly due to the grant of licences to Kabiraji firms. Eight bonded laboratories in Calcutta and one at Konnagore continued to manufacture tinctures and medicinal preparations, and over 71½ thousand L.P. gallons of rectified spirit contents were issued from these laboratories, yielding a revenue of over Rs. 3½ lakhs in duty. The medicinal preparations of these laboratories continued to be freely used in Bengal as well as in other provinces, and they replaced to a large extent articles of foreign manufacture. The rules prescribing adherence to the B.P. standards and approved recipes continued to be strictly enforced, and there were no complaints as regards the quality of Foreign liquor, etc.

the products of these laboratories. Facilities were also afforded for the manufacture of soap and shellac by the issue of special denatured spirit without levying a pass fee.

*Ganja.* 193. There was a general fall in the consumption of *ganja* owing to the economic distress of the people on account of trade depression and the consequent low price of agricultural produce. Revision in the scale of licence fees throughout the province resulted in an increase of receipts under that head, but the revenue from duty decreased owing to less consumption, and the net fall of revenue amounted to Rs. 44,254. The area under *ganja* cultivation at Naogaon in Rajshahi district was reduced on account of reduced demand and fall in exports to Bihar and Orissa, which is now producing its own *ganja*.

*Bhang.* 194. There was a decrease in revenue from *bhang*, due to fall in consumption, which was attributed to economic causes, an increase in the retail price of the drug and an increase in duty.

*Charas.* 195. The total issue of *charas* to the retail shops in the Presidency was 21 maunds against 25 maunds in the preceding year. The decline in the sales in Calcutta to the extent of 4 maunds 9 seers was attributed by the Collector of Excise, Calcutta, partly to trade depression, the drug being taken by the poorest classes of labourers, and partly to illicit imports.

Opium. 196. The total quantity of opium consumed fell from 678 maunds to 656 maunds, and the total receipts from Rs. 35,03,349 to Rs. 34,74,286. The decrease in consumption was largely due to economic causes, and in some districts to floods and failure of crops. The Opium Smoking Act, 1932, and the rules thereunder had the desired effect throughout the Presidency, and the number of opium smokers was reported to be gradually on the wane.

## Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration for the year, 1934-35.]

Rate. 197. Except in the districts of Khulna, Pabna, Bogra and the Chittagong Hill Tracts the road and public works cess continued to be levied during the year under review at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and immovable properties. In Khulna, Pabna and Bogra, the cesses were levied at 9 pies in the rupee, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts are exempt from the operation of the Cess Act. The valuation or gross rental on which cesses were assessed amounted to Rs. 16,83,37,893 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,09,43,252. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·38 per cent.

198. The total cess demand during the year was Rs. 1,57,66,045, the current demand being Rs. 91,52,351 against Rs. 91,61,634 of the previous year. Thus, taking into consideration the demands in Parts II(*b*), II (*c*) and Part III estates, there was a net decrease of Rs. 9,283 in the current demand. This decrease was mainly brought about by the reduced rate of cesses in the districts of Khulna, Pabna and Bogra and by the decrease of cess demand from coal mines in the district of Burdwan; and it would have been more marked had not the rate of cess in the Chittagong district been restored to the maximum of one anna in the rupee. The percentage of total collections on current demand of all classes of estates rose from 90·89 in the preceding year to 106·61. The percentage of outstanding balance on the total demand fell from 43·31 in the previous year to 35·94. The percentage of total collections on the current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Midnapore, Bankura, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Jessore, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Tippera, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Malda. In the remaining districts it varied from 83·54 to 99·62. **Demands and collections.**

199. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of cesses was 47,814 against 53,162 in the preceding year. Including the cases pending from the previous year, the total number of cases for disposal was 92,110, of which 54,086 cases were disposed of and 38,024 cases remained pending at the close of the year. **Working of the Certificate Procedure.**

200. Revaluation operations were in progress only in the district of Chittagong. The revision of assessment on coal mines in Birbhum and Burdwan, and of certain Gazari forests in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh, was made, as usual, under Chapter V of the Cess Act. **Valuation and revaluation.**

# CHAPTER VI.

## Legislative Council.

**Acts passed.**

201. Nine Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1934-35:—

(*i*) *The Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act I of 1935)*, to provide for the registration of the class of divorce effected by a wife on the authority conferred on her by her husband as a condition of marriage, and for the registration of a subsequent re-marriage.

(*ii*) *The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act II of 1935)*, to empower Government to fix from time to time the rate of interest payable under sub-section (*4*) of section 78 of the parent Act, subject to a maximum of 6 *per cent.*

(*iii*) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act III of 1935)*, to enable the Corporation of Calcutta to make grants to *tols*, *madrassahs* and *makhtabs* or to institutions in which persons employed on manual labour receive primary education.

(*iv*) *The Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934 (Bengal Act IV of 1935)*, to prevent effectively the besetting of industrial establishments and similar premises by professional money-lenders determined to recover their dues as a first charge on the wages of workmen employed therein, an evil to which the Royal Commission on Indian Labour had drawn attention.

(*v*) *The Bengal Alluvial Lands (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act V of 1935)*, to avoid delay and to simplify the procedure of the parent Act of 1920 in regard to *char* lands, especially where alluvial formation, which has been attached by the Collector of the district, is subsequently found to belong to a neighbouring district.

(*vi*) *The Estates Partition (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act VI of 1935)*, to provide for the partition of rent-free lands without the consent of the parties concerned, along with the partition of the parent estate. This was a non-official measure.

(*vii*) *The Court-fees (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act VII of 1935)*, to provide a suitable machinery for preventing the evasion of the law relating to Court-fees.

(*viii*) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act VIII of 1935)*, to extend the term of office of members of union boards, to widen the union franchise, and also to empower the union boards to make certain grants for educational and other purposes.

(*ix*) *The Albert Victor Leper Hospital Act, 1935 (Bengal Act IX of 1935)*, to create a Trust Fund for the Hospital, analogous to that of the Ranchi European Mental Hospital, on a semi-independent footing as regards financial and administrative control and with a fixed grant from Government.

Government Bill pending.

202. Seven Government Bills remained pending at the close of the year under review:—

(*i*) *The Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1934*, to amend the Civil Courts Act so that individual selected Munsifs might be vested, on the recommendation of the High Court, with power to try original suits up to the value of Rs. 5,000, and that the Small Cause Court jurisdiction should be raised in the case of selected Munsifs and Subordinate Judges to Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, respectively. This amendment was the result of a proposal from the Civil Justice Committee. The motion to circulate the Bill for public opinion was carried.

(*ii*) *The Bengal Development Bill, 1935*, to provide for the levy of a cess at a flat rate on the total area benefited by works of improvement executed by Government. The main principle of the Bill was that Government should be entitled to recover a portion of the increased profits accruing to individuals and companies from land of any description, whether used for agriculture or not, owing to works undertaken at the cost of the State, which they would otherwise not have enjoyed. This Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

(*iii*) *The Bengal Electricity Duty Bill, 1935*, to provide for the levy of a surcharge of 6 pies per unit of energy on electricity used for the purpose of lights and fans, was referred to a Select Committee, which presented its report.

(*iv*) *The Court-fees (Bengal Second Amendment) Bill, 1935*, to provide for an increase in the Court-fees payable, first on Probates of a Will or Letters of Administration with or without a Will annexed, and, secondly, on Certificates under Part X of the Indian Succession Act, when the amount or value of the property covered by the Probate or Letters of Administration or the value of the debt or security exceeds two and one-half lakhs. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee, which presented its report.

(*v*) *The Bengal Tobacco Sales Licensing Bill, 1935*, to provide for the levy of fees for licences to sell tobacco, was likewise referred to a Select Committee, which presented its report.

(*vi*) *The Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1935*, to provide for additional revenue by increasing the rate of certain classes of stamp duties, was referred to a Select Committee and the Report was presented.

(*vii*) *The Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, to provide for additional revenue by the imposition of a tax on tickets costing more than three annas, was referred to a Select Committee and the Report was presented.

**Non-official Bills pending.**

203. The following eleven non-official members' Bills were pending at the close of the year under review:—

(*i*) *The Estates Partition (Second Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Rai Bahadur Keshab Chandra Banerjee, was referred to a Select Committee, and the report of the Committee was presented during the year under review. The Bill is intended to empower the partition authorities to make an equitable partition notwithstanding any device which may cause difficulty and inconvenience to a co-sharer.

(*ii*) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1935*, by Mr. P. Banerji, was circulated for opinion. This Bill seeks to provide seats in the Calcutta Corporation for Bus Syndicate and labouring classes.

(*iii*) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, was circulated for opinion. The Bill seeks to remove certain anomalies in the parent Act.

(*iv*) *The Bengal Ferries (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Maulvi Abdul Hakim, dealing with the lease of ferries, was circulated for opinion.

(*v*) *The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, was circulated for opinion. The Bill seeks to increase the representation of school teachers and union boards and union committees on the district Primary Education Board.

(*vi*) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur was circulated for opinion. The Bill seeks to cure the parent Act of certain minor defects.

(*vii*) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Maulvi Abul Kasem, was circulated for opinion. The Bill is intended to enfranchise carters.

(*viii*) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, was merely introduced. The Bill seeks to provide for the erection of a mosque on an agricultural holding.

(*ix*) *The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1933*, by Babu Jitendralal Banerjee was also introduced. This Bill seeks to provide for the recognition of certain unregistered medical practitioners.

(*x*) *The Bengal Race Course Betting Bill, 1935*, by Mr. Banerji, was likewise introduced. The Bill provides for taking out licences before a race-course is opened for horse-races or dog-races.

(*xi*) *The Bengal Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Maulvi Abul Kasem was introduced only. The Bill seeks to withdraw the exemption of *wakfs* created by the Borah Community.

204. The following non-official members' Bills were disposed of by the Council in the manner indicated against each:— Non-official Bills disposed of.

(*i*) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1934, (section 148)*, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, was withdrawn by the leave of the Council. The Bill proposed to deal with the appointment of fresh guardians in execution proceedings.

(*ii*) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1933 (sections 48C, 109 and 158A)*, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, proposed to deal with the rights of under-raiyats and also the recovery of rent by proprietors and permanent tenure-holders. A motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was defeated.

(*iii*) *The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1933 (sections 65 and 163)*, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, proposed to deal with the sale of holdings and tenures for arrears of rent. A motion to circulate the Bill for opinion was rejected.

(*iv*) *The Bengal Public Gambling (Amendment) Bill, 1935*, by Mr. P. Banerji, sought to legalise dog-racing, but a motion that it should be taken into consideration was defeated.

(*v*) *The Bengal Suppression of Private Lotteries Bill, 1935*, by Mr. P. Banerji. Here also a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration was rejected.

(*vi*) No motions were moved in respect of the following Bills, of which notice had been given by non-official members:—*The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Rai Satish Chandra Mukherjee Bahadur; *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury; and *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1934*, by Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury. None of these non-official Bills was of any outstanding importance.

# CHAPTER VII.

## Local Self-Government.

### Calcutta Corporation.

[Administration Report for the year 1934-35.]

**Personnel.**

205. Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar and Mr. B. N. Roy Chowdhury were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively, and acted as such throughout the year under review.

**Finances.**

206. The Revenue Account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,01,80,874. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,35,02,724 and the payments to Rs. 2,31,29,746. Adjusting the Assets and Liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income amounted to Rs. 2,43,15,397 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,29,70,609. On the basis of actual receipts and payments, there was a balance of Rs. 1,05,53,852, of which Rs. 67,77,609 was in cash and securities. The balance consisted of Stores-in-stock Rs. 6,61,990 and Advances Rs. 31,14,253. The 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loan of 1904-05, dated the 1st December 1904, for Rs. 30,00,000 was repaid on the 1st December 1934 and a sum of Rs. 5,368-9 was repaid to Government on account of the loan borrowed by the now defunct Manicktolla Municipality. In November 1934, an application was submitted to Government for sanction to the raising of two Debenture Loans, one for Rs. 33,91,000 with a currency of 30 years and the other for Rs. 15,56,800 for 17 years, both at a rate of interest not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum. Sanction for the former was not received during the year; but sanction for the latter was accorded in January 1935, the rate of interest was fixed at 3½ per cent. and the loan was raised in February 1935 through public subscription by tender at a discount, the net realisation being Rs. 15,43,219. An application was submitted in March 1935 to Government for sanction to the raising of a further loan of Rs. 13,600 to cover the discount and to the reservation of the entire loan for issue at par to and in the name of the Corporation. Sanction to this additional loan was not received within the year. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year

stood at Rs. 7,81,09,379, including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture Loan of £500,000 and Rs. 5,586 on account of balance of the loan taken from Government by the now defunct Manicktolla Municipality. Against this indebtedness, there was an aggregate accumulation of Rs. 1,96,77,465 in the Sinking Funds. The total payment made on account of loan charges, during the year 1934-35 amounted to Rs. 55,30,344.

Assessment Department.

207. At the close of the year, the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,54,37,155, an increase of Rs. 2,64,084 over the valuation at the end of the previous year. This was due not only to the revaluation of properties made during the year, but also to the disposal of cases in respect of which objections were pending during previous years.

Chief Valuer and Surveyor's Department.

208. Altogether 104 acquisition projects involving an area of about 66¾ bighas and at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 ⅗ lakhs were prepared during the year. Of these, 8 were in actual progress for the acquisition of 29 bighas at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,06,340. Under section 304 of the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1923, about 4¼ bighas of lands were acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,02,134-14-6; and sundry persons made free gift of 3¾ kottahs of lands worth Rs. 5,552-4.

Collection Department.

209. The total gross demand of consolidated rate for the year was Rs. 2,21,69,743. This included the arrears of the previous year pending with the Collector and Assessor. Eliminating the amount remitted on account of vacancies, the net demand stood at Rs. 2,14,35,073 as against Rs. 2,14,16,437 or Rs. 18,636 more than the previous year. The total amount collected was Rs. 1,79,34831. Bills amounting to Rs. 14,38,555 were pending with the Assessor at the close of the year, and bills aggregating Rs. 4,02,898 were transferred to the Law Department, the former for amendment and the latter for recovery by suit. The net unrealised balance pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 16,40,951 as against Rs. 15,29,833 at the end of the previous year. The percentage of collection calculated on the gross current demand was 85·271 against 86·816 and 85·646 in the two preceding years, and that on the net demand was 87·432, the corresponding percentage in the two previous years being 89·494 and 88·212, respectively. The net demand of miscellaneous dues was Rs. 15,55,354; and the collection amounted to Rs. 13,35,102. Bills amounting to Rs. 6,180 were transferred to the Law Department for recovery by suit, leaving a net balance of Rs. 2,14,070 pending with the Collector at the end of the

year, as against Rs. 1,82,656 outstanding at the end of the previous year. The balance includes (*a*) bills aggregating Rs. 1,42,288 payable by the Government, Suburban Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust, and the other Public Bodies, and (*b*) bills aggregating Rs. 5,270 for advertisement in the *Calcutta Municipal Gazette*, and (*c*) bills aggregating Rs. 42,874 which were under objection and could not be disposed of until final orders were passed.

**Licence Department.**

210. The total receipts for the year 1934-35 on account of licence taxes amounted to Rs. 15,75,776-13-6, including Rs. 12,30,358-7-6 on account of tax on Trades and Professions and licence fees under sections 390 and 428, Rs. 64,414 in tax on carriages and animals, and Rs. 1,12,121-4 in taxes under other sections of the Act. Rs. 1,06,076-14 was collected as Cart Registration fees and Rs. 2,806-4 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total number of licences issued during the year 1934-35 was 63,660; and the total collection under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,60,513-8.

**Lighting Department.**

211. There were 20,303 gas lamps in the City of Calcutta at the end of the year 1934-35; and the oil and electric lamps numbered 876 and 3,506 respectively. The Lighting Department attempted to effect substantial savings in the Gas and Electric bills, and as the rate of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation was favourable, efforts were made to replace as many gas lamps by electric lights as possible. Savings to the extent of nearly Rs. 50,000 will be effected when the new agreement with the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, is enforced with retrospective effect.

**Water-suppl**

212. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 63·9 million gallons, and that of unfiltered water to about 53·9 million gallons, making a total of 117·8 million gallons per day, as compared with 62·5 million gallons of filtered water and 53·3 million gallons of unfiltered water or a total of 115·8 million gallons during the previous year. The average consumption of filtered water per head per day in Calcutta for a population of 1,196,668 amounted to 53·4 gallons, and in Calcutta together with the neighbouring municipalities of Dum Dum, Tollygunge and South Suburban for a population of 1,289,161 it amounted to 49·6 gallons. The average consumption of unfiltered water per head per day for a population of 998,678 amounted to about 54 gallons as compared with 53·4 gallons in the previous year.

213. At Palta one new engine was supplied during the year, and another required overhauling, as it was shaking on its foundation. A third was given a thorough overhaul and the condenser attached to the pump was provided with 3 new baffle plates. As a result, it worked satisfactorily. The boilers at the station were running under constant overload, pending receipt of two more boilers which were shifted from the old Pressure Station. The 48″ C. I. main between Palta and Tallah was put into commission towards the end of the year, after it had been out of commission for nearly 5 years. This main was in a sound condition and was capable of standing the pressure from the new pumps. Palta Pumping Station.

214. At Tallah the electric pump, which was shifted to Mullickghat Pumping Station in 1932, was re-erected during the year, but could not be run for want of a second switch gear. It was proposed to instal a duplicate switch gear for the two electric pumps during the next financial year. No progress was made during the year in the alteration to boilers for abating smoke nuisance, and the Corporation was convicted and fined for smoke nuisance by the Criminal Court, Sealdah. The suction pump attached to the new engine room was found to be leaking at several places, and the pump was opened out on the outside as far as possible and repaired with "Sika" plaster. This checked the leakage to a great extent. The reflux valves, purchased some time before, could not be fixed on the delivery pipes without closing the station, but it was proposed to do this during the next financial year. A 30″ C. I. pipe which appeared to have moved about 1½″ sidewise, was removed and the two ends were blank flanged, thus averting the serious disaster which would have resulted from a burst. It was proposed to replace the pipe by a steel main during the next financial year. Tallah Pumping Station.

215. At Mullickghat the motor of No. 2 pump was disconnected from the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation panel and was connected with the C. C. Cables, being run with current from Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station and Tallah Pumping Station. One new pump body was obtained to replace that of No. 3 pump, but the body of No. 5 pump was in an unsatisfactory condition and required renewal. Orders for 2 new bodies were placed with the Entally Workshops. The 54″ C. I. delivery pipe developed serious leaks despite numerous repairs. It was never put in commission, and the whole supply was carried through one of the delivery pipes of the old steam station. This was undoubtedly an unsatisfactory state of affairs, and it was considered desirable to replace the C. I. pipe with a steel pipe as early as possible. The condition of the Intake continued to be as bad as Mullickghat Pumping Station.

ever, if not worse. It was apprehended that when the present Howrah Bridge is shifted further north, the condition of the Intake will become serious, and it is time that the desirability of shifting the entire pumping station from Mullickghat to Bagh Bazar should be considered. The case instituted by the Corporation against the Port Commissioners claiming damages for the flooding of Mullickghat pumping station in July 1926 was decided against the Corporation in May 1934; but on appeal the claim was decided in favour of the Corporation in April 1935.

**Watgunge Pumping Station.**

216. At Watgunge two new pump bodies were supplied to replace the bodies of two worn out pumps at the station; and all the pumps were thoroughly overhauled. Repairs were effected to No. 1 pump, and several suction and delivery valves were renewed.

**Ardhodaya Joga.**

217. On the occasion of the Ardhodaya Joga, which took place on the 3rd February 1935, elaborate arrangements for water-supply, were made, comprising the installation of 47 400-gallon reserve tanks and 115 stand pipes in different parts of the town, especially in Kalighat. The general supply to the town from Tallah was also increased by about 6·4 million gallons per day.

**Garden Reach Water-supply.**

218. For the supply of water to Garden Reach through the new mains, the missing link in Sterndale Road was completed before the close of the year, but the supply could not be turned on to Garden Reach as the main required a thorough flushing out.

**Drainage.**

219. During the year under review the work of constructing the Town High Level Sewer, under the Main Drainage Extension Scheme, was completed. For the provision of adequate drainage of Ward No. 30 in the Cossipore-Chitpore area, work in connection with the construction of a Pumping Station in the Carmichael Medical College compound in Belgachia was carried on. A Diesel Oil Engine and a Centrifugal Pump of 1,100 gallons capacity per minute were erected at Pagladanga Pumping Station, and at Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station a new Condenser was substituted for the old one. The work of installing two Lancashire Boilers at Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station was begun, and the erection of two Vertical Spindle Propeller Pumps at Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station, was completed, while a number of sewers were cleared, surveyed or relayed. The steady deterioration of the Bidyadhari created a good deal of difficulty in maintaining the existing outfall system, which was kept running by removal of silt from outfall channels. The Outfall Scheme for the City of Calcutta to the nearest live river, the Kulti, was prepared and accepted by the Corporation in August 1930, and was

under examination by a Government Expert Committee. After several meetings of this Committee it was decided that the scheme would function with provisions for pre-settlement of sewage and adequate sluice capacity. According to the direction of the Committee for the preparation of working details, a large scale aerial survey of the land between Calcutta and Kulti was carried out by the Survey Department of the Government of India on behalf of the Corporation with a view to fixing the alignment and avoiding costly homestead areas as far as possible.

Bustee Department.

220. The limits of 43 bustees, comprising about 108 holdings, were defined and surveyed during the year with a view to improvement, and standard plans were prepared in respect of 93 bustees. About 15 bighas of bustee land were cleared of huts and about a mile of road was opened out; 65 connected privies and one bathing platform were constructed in various bustees; and 22 private streets were improved as the result of action taken by the department.

Roads.

221. The total expenditure on roads and footpaths amounted to over Rs. 6¼ lakhs, and of this amount more than Rs. 3½ lakhs were spent for construction and improvements. A sum of over Rs. 2 lakhs was spent on repairs to roads previously asphalted, and Rs. 2½ lakhs on repairs to other roads.

Conservancy.

222. The total quantity of refuse carried to the Square mile at Dhappa, dumped at the different low lands and burnt at the incinerator amounted to 5,95,796 tons during the year 1934-35, the daily average quantity dealt with being 1,632 tons.

Building Department.

223. The total number of applications for masonry buildings, huts, sky-signs and verandahs, etc., dealt with during the year 1934-35 was 10,459 against 10,039 in the previous year. Twenty-two per cent. of the applications in the case of masonry buildings and 40 per cent. in the case of huts were sanctioned in the same year. Notices numbering 1,891 were issued for repairs or re-construction of old and dilapidated buildings, against 1,929 in the year 1933-34; and 1,756 notices were also served to prevent owners from attempting to erect unauthorised constructions, against 1,649 in the previous year.

Health Department.

224. The total number of births registered during the year 1934 in the city, including the added areas, was 25,717 or 21·5 per mille, as compared with 26,045 births in the previous year. This was a little lower than the birth rate of 21·8 per mille in the preceding year. The total number of deaths registered during the year 1934 for the whole city including the added areas was 34,356 or 28·7 per mille, against 35,175 or 29·4 per mille of the

preceding year. A mild epidemic of small-pox broke out during the year, and caused 1,074 deaths or ·90 per mille, against 4,181 deaths (3·5 per mille) of the previous year. The mortality from enteric fever was almost stationary, and the number of deaths that took place in 1934 was 963, against 964 of the year 1933. The deaths from influenza were much lower, the figure being 597 against 710 in the preceding year. The total number of deaths from kala-azar and from other fevers was 210 and 2,185, respectively, against 233 deaths from kala-azar and 1,856 deaths from other fevers in 1933. The number of deaths from malaria was 714, against 828 of the previous year. The total number of deaths from dysentry and diarrhœa and from respiratory diseases was 3,007 and 7,184, respectively, against 2,609 and 6,886 of the year 1933. The mortality from cholera and tuberculosis was 1,360 and 3,053 respectively, as against 1,216 deaths from cholera and 2,887 deaths from tuberculosis in 1933. Cholera was epidemic in the City during the earlier part of the year, especially in March, April and May, but it subsided gradually during the latter portion of the year. There was no death from plague during this year, but 633 deaths occurred from cerebro-spinal meningitis. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 6,654, the infant mortality rate being 254 per thousand registered births, as compared with 7,144 deaths or 274 per thousand registered births of the previous year. The lady health visitors and the midwives fully maintained their popularity and rendered valuable services to the poor and the middle class rate-payers of the City. The midwives delivered 6,805 cases and removed 125 difficult labour cases to the different hospitals. The lady health visitors, who are doctors of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon class, personally delivered 156 cases in addition to the work done by the midwives. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 173, excluding 253 still births, and the rate of infantile mortality within the first ten days of births attended by the Corporation staff was 25 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality rate within the first two weeks in the whole city was 73 per thousand registered births. There were only 20 deaths amongst mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food Inspection.

225. The total number of samples of foodstuff taken was 9,881, of which 1,678 or 16·9 per cent. were found adulterated; and of these, 545 out of 1,739 samples of milk, 455 out of 2,178 samples of ghee, 45 out of 496 samples of butter, 117 out of 938 samples of sweetmeats, 334 out of 1,913 samples of mustard oil, 3 out of 18 samples of *khoa khir*, 104 out of 406 samples of invalid food, 1 out of 358 samples of tea, nil out of 255 samples of flour and 13 out of 54 samples of "chana" were found adulterated.

226. The total revenue derived from all municipal markets during the year 1934-35 was slightly over Rs. 12½ lakhs; and there was a decrease of Rs. 7,177 from the actuals of the previous year. Markets.

227. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to nearly Rs. 15 lakhs, against nearly Rs. 12 lakhs in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 232 Corporation Free Primary Schools with 32,856 pupils, against 235 schools and 32,171 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on the rolls, 18,217 were boys and 14,639 girls, as compared with 18,349 boys and 13,822 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 3 were part-time schools held in the morning, and 229 were day schools. The corresponding figures in the previous year were 3 part-time schools (held in the morning) and 228 days schools, in addition to 4 night schools. At the close of the year there were 1,092 teachers in all Corporation Free Primary Schools, of whom 683 were men and 409 women. Compulsory free primary education was introduced in Ward IX during 1934-35. Education.

## Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1934-35.]

228. The principal centres of the Trust's activities during the year were at the extreme North and extreme South of Calcutta. In the North, Central Avenue was completed as far as Shambazar Street and was being taken out through Shambazar to the junction of Cornwallis Street and Circular Road. In the South, the Lansdowne Road extension was carried up to its meeting point with the new Southern Avenue just to the North of the Dhakuria Lake. Development of the adjacent area by subsidiary streets has not, however, progressed very far. In the centre of the town rapid progress was made with a cross road from the Currency Office in Dalhousie Square to Chittaranjan Avenue, which will make a useful new outlet for traffic from Dalhousie Square to the East. On the outskirts of the town a certain amount of work was done in rounding off the approaches to the canal bridges at Maniktala and Beliaghata, but delays over land acquisition held up the scheme for improving the approaches to the Narkeldanga Bridge. Improvement scheme.

229. Certain small plots of land left on the hands of the Trust have been laid out as temporary parks. The Dhakuria Lake and adjoining park retained its popularity, and the swimming pool near the main lake offered opportunities for swimming to youths of South Calcutta. The Indian Life Saving Society has been permitted to erect a Club House on the bank of the pool. Open spaces.

Bridges.

230. The Tollygunge Bridge was under construction by the Trust on behalf of Government at the joint cost of Government, the Corporation and the Trust; and to minimise public inconvenience a temporary bridge was during the construction period provided for road traffic through the agency of the Trust.

Finance.

231. Receipts and expenditure were Rs. 50·51 lakhs and Rs. 32·77 lakhs, respectively, in the Revenue Account, and Rs. 76·57 lakhs and Rs. 86·91 lakhs, respectively, in the Capital Account, exclusive of a loan of Rs. 50 lakhs raised during the year and repayment of the loan of Rs. 16 lakhs in March, 1935. The continued buoyancy of receipts from sales of land (Rs. 37·68 lakhs) and the stability of receipts from the Municipal contribution (Rs. 20·11 lakhs) and the Jute tax (Rs. 9·98 lakhs) were the main features of the receipts during the year under review.

## Municipalities.

General.

232. The number of municipalities was the same, viz., 117, as in the preceding year. The revision of boundaries of the municipalities in the 24-Parganas, affected by the last survey and settlement operations, was almost completed during the year under review, while similar proposals were received for the revision of boundaries of the Burdwan municipality, as well as of certain municipalities in the district of Hooghly. The boundaries of the Khardah and Titagarh municipalities (24-Parganas) also underwent some change, owing to the transfer of the Titagarh outfall works area from the former to the latter. The two hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong continued to be administered under the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884. The question of the introduction of the new Bengal Municipal Act in the district of Darjeeling is under the consideration of Government.

Elections.

233. During the year under report general elections were held in South Suburban, Baruipur, Jaynagore, Gobardanga, Baduria, Santipur, Murshidabad, Jangipur and Satkhira municipalities in the Presidency Division. In the first named, the election was held by the District Magistrate under special orders of Government issued under rule 46 of the Election Rules under the Bengal Municipal Act; while at Gobardanga the elections were held by the Subdivisional Officer, Baraset. A fair measure of interest was taken in the election proceedings. In one ward of the Baduria municipality votes were recorded by more than 96 per cent. of the voters. Female voters were appreciably keen on exercising the franchise bestowed on them by the new Bengal Municipal Act, and many of them attended the polls.

Meetings.

234. Out of 2,975 meetings held during the year, 102 proved abortive for want of a quorum and 287 were adjourned, against 113 and 309, respectively in the preceding year. The failure was most marked at Budge Budge and Pirojpur, each of which was responsible for no less than 29 unsuccessful meetings out of a total of 43 and 48 meetings, respectively, held during the year. Hooghly-Chinsura municipality held the largest number of meetings, viz., 62 (although 23 of these were adjourned), and was followed by Jiaganj-Azimganj with 58, Santipur and Bhola with 53 each, Nabadwip with 52, Burdwan and Bally with 48 and 42, respectively, and Sonamukhi and Bansberia with 39 each. On the other hand Ramjibanpur and Tangail held only 12 meetings each, while the municipal commissioners of Kanchrapara failed to meet even once a month. The attendance of commissioners at meetings was satisfactory on the whole. In 6 municipalities the average attendance was over 80 per cent., and in 28 others it was over 70 per cent. In 13 municipalities, on the other hand, the attendance was below 50 per cent., and of these as many as 8 were in the Presidency Division. The percentage of average attendance was highest (viz., 89·9) in North Dum Dum; in Bogra the percentage was as low as 36·8, while it was lowest at Budge Budge, viz., 35·2.

Rate-payers.

235. The total number of rate-payers fell from 344,746 to 343,603, but the percentage of rate-payers to the total population of the municipalities was 14·9 or practically the same as in the preceding year. The ratio varied from 43·7 in Kumarkhali (Nadia) to 3·2 in Bhatpara, a mill town with a large cooly population. In the two hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong the percentages were 9·6 and 6·4, respectively. Other towns in which rates were paid by less than one-tenth of the population were Jalpaiguri (9·1), Mymensingh (8·3), Narayanganj (8·4) and most of the riparian mill municipalities of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, with large floating populations of factory operatives, who contribute nothing to the municipal funds.

Rates and taxes.

236. The total receipts from municipal rates and taxes rose from Rs. 71,17,000 to Rs. 71,80,000. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 3-2, as compared with Rs. 3-1-2 of the preceding year. It was highest in the hill municipalities of Darjeeling (Rs. 12-8-3) and Kurseong (Rs. 8-14-3). Next came Howrah (Rs. 7-7-11), Dum Dum (Rs. 6-9), Narayanganj (Rs. 4-13-2) and Uttarpara (Rs. 4-12-8). In nine other municipalities, viz., Burdwan, Hooghly-Chinsura, Bally, Baranagar, Tollyganj, Krishnagar, Berhampur, Jessore and Dacca, the ratio was above Rs. 4 per head. In 16 municipalities the incidence was between 8 annas and one rupee, while it was below 8 annas in

four municipalities, viz., Dhulian (Rs. 0-7-3), Debhatta (Rs. 0-7-2), Bajitpur (Rs. 0-7-1) and Baduria (Rs. 0-6-8). Generally speaking, the incidence of municipal taxation in the Presidency continued to be extremely low, although the new Municipal Act has placed additional powers of taxation in the hands of the municipal commissioners, and a low incidence of taxation necessarily spells a low standard of municipal service. General or partial revision of assessment took place in a large number of municipalities, but in several cases effect could not be given to the revised assessment during the year under report, owing chiefly to the delay in disposal of objections. The tax on persons was replaced by a rate on holdings, according to the provisions of the new Bengal Municipal Act, in Baruipur and Baraset in the Presidency Division, in Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Tangail, Faridpur and Jhalakati in the Dacca Division, in Cox's Bazar in Chittagong and in the municipalities of Sherpur, English Bazar, Old Malda and Nawabganj in the Rajshahi Division. There are still a number of municipalities where the tax on persons has not yet been replaced by a rate on holdings, and as no tax on persons is permissible under the new Municipal Act, it is time that these municipalities adopted a uniform system of taxation by imposing a holding rate.

**Collection.**

237. The total collections for the Presidency as a whole increased from about Rs. 69¼ lakhs to more than Rs. 70¾ lakhs, and the percentage of collection on the current demand also rose from 92·8 to 93·5. In 25 municipalities the collections were equal to or in excess of the current demand, and in 31 others it was over 95 per cent. The best record was that of Kishoreganj, which collected as much as 139·9 per cent. of its current demand. In 14 municipalities, on the other hand, the ratio was under 85 per cent., falling as low as 63·4 per cent. in Bankura. The poor collection in Bankura is reported to have been due, partly to a very large number of objection petitions against the revision of assessment made during 1933-34, and partly to the economic depression. Bhadreswar and Champdany collected practically the whole of their demand after granting not more than half per cent. remissions, no outstanding balance being left in the former and only Rs. 9 in the latter. Once again the Barulia municipality had the proud distinction of collecting cent. per cent. of its demand, without any remission and without leaving any outstanding balance. In the Chittagong Division, collections improved considerably in Chandpur and Noakhali and to a lesser extent in Chittagong, Comilla and Brahmanbaria. The improvement at Chandpur was reported to be due to the strong insistence on better supervision and the strict issue of distress warrants at

the instance of two nominated commissioners, who threatened resignation unless adequate measures according to law were taken to improve the financial condition of the municipality. The fall in collection in Nawabganj, Old Mālda and English Bazar was reported to be due to some extent to delay in the disposal of many objections made against the new assessments. The amount of remissions for the Province as a whole again rose by nearly a lakh of rupees to Rs. 6 lakhs, and represented 7·9 per cent. of the current demand, as compared with 6·8 per cent. of the previous year. The small municipality of Baraset remitted as much as 44·8 per cent. of its current demand, but still had an outstanding balance of Rs. 6,530 out of a total demand of only Rs. 17,945; and no explanation was forthcoming for such unusually heavy remissions. Large remissions were also granted by Howrah (Rs. 1,55,454), South Dum Dum (Rs. 24,224), Budge Budge (Rs. 19,993), Mymensingh (Rs. 19,808), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 17,350), Chittagong (Rs. 16,331) and Asansol (Rs. 15,800); and these were generally due, either to the writing off of irrecoverable arrears, or to reductions granted by the Assessment Review Committees in cases of general revision of assessment. A sum of Rs. 43,603 or 7·6 per cent. of its current demand was remitted by the Dacca Municipality, but it still had an outstanding balance of Rs. 1,35,110 at the close of the year. The total balance outstanding at the close of the year rose from Rs. 28·82 lakhs to Rs. 29·42 lakhs, of which Howrah alone was responsible for nearly Rs. 10½ lakhs. The other municipalities with large outstandings balances are Mymensingh (Rs. 1,21,712), Tollyganj (Rs. 93,946), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 90,661), South Suburban (Rs. 68,959), Barisal (Rs. 66,169), Bankura (Rs. 64,868), Comilla (Rs. 63,654), Asansol (Rs. 57,539), Bally (Rs. 56,860) and Serampore (Rs. 51,987). In Dacca and Barisal the arrears were being gradually reduced, while in Mymensingh they were on the increase. In Tollyganj the heavy outstanding balance was due to the accumulation of a large amount of irrecoverable arrears. At South Suburban it was due to bad collections, and the collection department had to be superseded and placed in charge of the Subdivisional Officer of Alipore. The situation improved considerably as a result. The outstandings elsewhere were not satisfactorily explained, but the reports from almost all parts of the province assert that, in spite of the general economic distress, they were due in no small measure to the disinclination of most municipal executives to take adequate coercive measures for realisation. The usual reason for this laxity is the fear of unpopularity or of losing seats at future elections. It is to be regretted that not infrequently many commissioners themselves allow their taxes to fall into arrears.

Income and expenditure.

238. The total receipts including opening balances fell from Rs. 114·9 lakhs to Rs. 106·4 lakhs; and the total disbursements also declined from Rs. 101·6 lakhs to Rs. 93·6 lakhs. The total balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 12·96 lakhs, against Rs. 13·29 lakhs in the preceding year; the largest balance being held by Dacca (Rs. 2,16,619), for which no explanation was furnished. The other municipalities with large closing balances were Darjeeling (Rs. 1,43,629), Howrah (Rs. 1,42,727), Baranagar (Rs. 58,880) and Budge Budge (Rs. 48,328). On the other hand, many municipalities failed to keep adequate working balances, and in several instances these were quite insufficient to meet the outstanding liabilities. The worst offenders in this respect were Baraset, which had no balance left at the close of the year, despite liabilities exceeding its current demand, and Midnapore, which had a closing balance of Rs. 3,499 only, against liabilities amounting to Rs. 51,414.

Education.

239. The total amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1,38,743, increased from Rs. 5,52,568 to Rs. 5,66,848. The expenditure on primary education showed a increase of Rs. 12,083, which was shared by all the divisions. Howrah spent the largest amount, viz., Rs. 67,454 on primary education, but this included a Government contribution of Rs. 14,939. The Chittagong municipality spent Rs. 40,359 on primary education, representing 30·2 per cent. of its ordinary income, which is the highest percentage for the province as a whole; while Madaripur spent 25 per cent. of its ordinary income on primary education. Nine municipalities however, or one in thirteen, failed to spend even 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income, which is the minimum a municipality is expected to spend on primary education; the expenditure being the lowest at Dum Dum, viz., 1·2 per cent. On the other hand, the ratio was over 5 per cent. in 57 municipalities, and over 10 in 28. Several municipalities in the districts of Midnapur and Hooghly increased their expenditure on primary education, and Asansol, Burdwan, Serampore and Champdany also spent considerable amounts under this head. The municipalities of Tollyganj, Bhatpara, Budge Budge, and Baranagar increased their grants to primary schools. Some municipalities in the Presidency Division showed a readiness to grant financial aid to secondary schools without having fully discharged their obligation in the matter of expansion of primary education in their areas, a policy which is to be deprecated. It is pleasant to record that no municipality in the Dacca Division spent less than the normal standard of 3·2 per cent. of its ordinary income on primary education. Dacca spent Rs. 27,330, including a Government grant of Rs. 13,950, for the maintenance of 5 boys' free primary schools and of 11 girls'

schools, and for granting stipends to other primary schools under private management both for boys and girls. Narayanganj spent Rs. 17,263 on education, and maintained 7 primary schools and also a free Public Library at a cost of Rs. 898. The Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality deserve special credit for their enterprise with regard to primary education. They maintained 63 boys' and girls' schools and also a well conducted High English School, and awarded stipends to Sanskrit tols, a Sanskrit College, a Deaf and Dumb School, the European Orphanage School, Santhal Schools and other educational institutions. As a result of the introduction of free and compulsory education in the municipality, the number of schools and pupils has continuously increased from 2,276 in 1930 to 3,001 in the year under review and the number of girl students increased from 130 in 1915 to 1,864, during the year under report. Bogra showed an increase in expenditure on education owing to the payment of arrear bills, while the increase at Darjeeling was due to considerable alterations in the primary school building to provide larger accommodation for boys. Rajshahi also increased its expenditure on education by establishing one more free primary school for boys.

Water-supply.

240. The total expenditure on water-supply was Rs. 9·87 lakhs, against Rs. 10·9 lakhs in the previous year, showing a net decrease of Rs. 1·03 lakhs, which was shared by all the divisions except Burdwan, where there was a net increase of Rs. 5,062 in the expenditure under this head. The decrease was mainly due to reduction of expenditure on capital works. Notable increases were at Howrah and Midnapur, which spent Rs. 56,803 and Rs. 3,879 more than in the preceding year under the head "Establishment and repairs, etc." There was also a noticeable increase of Rs. 6,526 at Faridpur owing to the purchase of a new engine, creation of a depreciation fund and payment of arrear bills. Large decreases occurred at Chandpur (Rs. 27,569), Barisal (Rs. 17,894), Dum Dum (Rs. 15,277) and Dacca (Rs. 14,876). No explanation was furnished for the heavy decrease at Chandpur; but the decreases at Barisal and Dacca were respectively due to heavy expenditure on a waterworks extension scheme and to the payment of outstanding bills in the previous year. At Dum Dum the decrease was due, partly to lesser consumption of filtered water on the abolition of one of the jails, and partly to non-payment of dues to the Corporation of Calcutta for the supply of water. Several municipalities with limited resources showed considerable activity in sinking tube-wells in preference to having water-works of the conventional type, and some of the larger municipalities with better financial resources also followed suit and tried to solve their problems of water-supply in this manner. Thirteen tube-wells were added by

the Burdwan municipality to the outlying *mahallas* not provided with filtered water-supply, while Bally maintained 63 tube-wells without charging any water rate, and some industrial concerns and private persons provided taps for public use. An additional tube-well of 4-inch diameter was sunk at Kalna at a total cost of Rs. 1,500, there being thus two tube-wells in the municipality, fitted with steam pumps, which supplied pure drinking water to two-thirds of the total population through 33 hydrants. The Vishnupur municipality sank two new masonry wells, and most of the other municipalities (without waterworks) in the Burdwan Division sank tube-wells for the supply of good drinking water, which was increasingly in demand. The municipality of Budge Budge spent Rs. 5,102 more on water-supply by excavating one tank for the supply of drinking water and by acquiring land for another, while Kamarhati and Panihati increased their expenditure by Rs. 1,902 and Rs. 1,774, respectively, by sinking more tube-wells. Some of the suburban municipalities in the 24-Parganas continued to obtain their supply of water from the Calcutta Corporation mains, on payment of cost at a fixed rate, but the supply was inadequate and had to be supplemented by water from tube-wells. Several riparian municipalities, e.g., Baranagar, Bhatpara, Kanchrapara and Halisahar, had under contemplation independent water-supply schemes, and the commissioners of the Khulna municipality were anxious to push through their waterworks extension scheme. The west-bank water-supply at Narayanganj was in need of urgent improvement, and an important scheme costing over Rs. 1½ lakhs was sanctioned by Government and a portion of it completed out of current municipal revenues. Another scheme costing Rs. 1,20,000 was sanctioned by Government for the improvement of the water-supply at Mymensingh. The commissioners of the Chittagong municipality, who spent Rs. 38,811 on water-supply, tried to supply filtered water to every congested bustee, but the supply was by no means equal to the demand in the dry season, and those who live on elevated ground were put to much inconvenience. The Rajshahi waterworks scheme did not advance very far, owing to the financial difficulties of the municipality. The scheme has, however, been split up into three parts, on the advice of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, and the first part is being taken up for execution. No progress could be made in regard to house connections at Jalpaiguri, as a large percentage of iron was found in the water on chemical examination, which rendered it unsuitable for drinking purposes. The municipal commissioners submitted a project providing for iron elimination and a chlorinating plant, which received the sanction of Government. The waterworks scheme at Pabna made no progress, and there was

little prospect of the scheme being introduced in the near future, failing a definite improvement in the financial condition of the municipality. The commissioners of the Rangpur municipality were formulating a comprehensive scheme of water-supply in congested parts of the town by means of deep tube-wells. The Kurseong municipality took up a scheme for improvement of water-supply in the Dow Hill area, and also constructed a public bath within the municipality.

Conservancy.

241. The expenditure on conservancy fell from Rs. 28·99 lakhs to Rs. 25·40 lakhs, but it was still far in excess of the receipts from the conservancy rate, which amounted to only Rs. 15·55 lakhs. The deficit was, as usual, met from the general fund, a practice that has been followed despite repeated condemnation. In the Burdwan Division the expenditure on conservancy increased by Rs. 44,026, which was shared more or less by 16 municipalities, Howrah alone being responsible for an increase of Rs. 33,967. Bhatpara showed a decrease of Rs. 3,77,275, but virtually this was not expenditure, the amount representing adjustment of accounts of expenditure made to the Public Health and Land Acquisition Departments towards the Town Improvement Scheme. With the completion of the Bhatpara sewerage scheme, which forms part of the Town Improvement Scheme and provides an interesting model for the sewerage of an industrial town, there will be two towns in the Presidency Division, viz., Titagarh and Bhatpara, having complete sewerage systems. All other municipalities in the division were entirely dependant on sweeper labour, generally recruited from outside the province, and some of them, notably Kandi and Berhampur, took steps to attract these labourers by improving their living conditions. Similar steps were taken by the Dacca Municipality, which spent Rs. 21,103 more on conservancy, mainly by erecting dwellings for sweepers; while Narayanganj also spent Rs. 11,148 more, in connection with a new scheme for *methors'* quarters and a *gowkhana*, estimated to cost Rs. 35,000. A total increase of Rs. 14,078 in expenditure under this head in the Rajshahi Division was shared by the municipalities of Jalpaiguri (Rs. 4,686), Bogra (Rs. 4,036), Rajshahi (Rs. 2,963) and Kurseong (Rs. 2,228). The increase in Jalpaiguri was occasioned by the acquisition of land for *methors'* quarters and for the trenching ground. The increase in Rajshahi was due to the reconstruction of *methors'* sheds, while in Kurseong it was due to repairs to settling tanks and latrines. The commissioners of the Bogra municipality made arrangements for watering its roads by means of water pipes in a certain part of the town, and proposed to extend the system of road watering to the whole town with a loan from Government.

Drainage.

242. The total expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3·45 lakhs. There was a net increase of Rs. 7,202 in expenditure under this head in the Burdwan Division, which was shared by the municipalities of Burdwan, Raniganj, Hooghly-Chinsurah, Serampore and Rishra-Konnagore. Substantial drainage work was executed in Kamarhati at the expense of the Trustees of the Kamarhati Improvement Fund, created by Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Company at a cost of Rs. 17,324. The problem of drainage at South Dum Dum, which stood over for a long time, engaged the attention of the municipal commissioners, and a combined scheme was being considered in consultation with the Public Health Department. Drainage in certain areas of Tollyganj having deteriorated considerably from the silting up of the Bidyadhari, the areas in question remained submerged for a greater part of the year, to the great distress of the residents. Drainage in this municipality is, in some areas, connected with that of the Calcutta Corporation, and the co-operation of that body is necessary to improve the situation. The drainage in a certain portion of Ward No. 2 of the Baruipur municipality was blocked by the railway embankment, and the question of improvement was taken up with the railway authorities and the Executive Engineer, Canals Division. The drainage project at Rajshahi, connected with the waterworks scheme, made no progress, and the same was the case with the drainage and sewage scheme at Jalpaiguri. The Dinajpur drainage scheme made no advance owing to paucity of funds. The municipal commissioners were asked to improve the terribly insanitary condition of the town by making the drains converge in one or two places to the Ghagra Khal, and by letting the drainage fall into cess pools. The new body of commissioners contemplated taking steps for the improvement of the drainage with a loan from Government, but no definite scheme was prepared pending completion of the new assessment. The drainage system in the English Bazar municipal area was also far from satisfactory, and no action appeared to have been taken by the municipal commissioners for its improvement. Some improvements were, however, made at Natore, where two culverts were widened and a surface drain was constructed with a view to remove nuisance from the heart of the town.

Lighting.

243. The total expenditure on lighting amounted to Rs. 5,78,927, against Rs. 6,90,335 in the previous year. Increases of expenditure at Asansol (Rs. 2,364) and Hooghly-Chinsurah (Rs. 3,160) were due to the installation of electric street lights by the former municipality, and to the payments of outstanding dues by the latter. Dainhat spent nothing under this head during the year under review, while several other municipalities in the Burdwan division reduced their expenditure, the noticeable

decreases being at Midnapore (Rs. 5,192), Burdwan (Rs. 3,274) and Serampore (Rs. 2,222). The decreases in the first two were due to curtailment of expenditure, while in the latter there were no arrear dues to be paid as in the preceding year. The Rishra-Konnagar municipality had under contemplation a scheme for lighting its streets with electricity, while Bansberia expected to take up the work after completion of the Tribeni suspension bridge. The electrical scheme at Kotrung had to be dropped, owing to differences as to terms with the Electric Company. The increase of expenditure at Baranagar (Rs. 4,262) and Tollyganj (Rs. 1,692) was due to the installation of additional lights, while payment of arrear dues was also responsible for a part of the increase at the former and for an increase of Rs. 1,163 at South Suburban. Purchase and maintenance of petromax lamps accounted for an increase of Rs. 1,492 at Krishnagar. The South Dum-Dum municipality extended the system of electric lighting to some additional areas, with the result that almost all the main and important roads have now been lighted with electricity. A scheme for the installation of electric lights in certain wards of the Panihati municipality was drawn up, and negotiations for the installation of electric lights were also proceeding at Khulna and Kushtia. There was a decrease of Rs. 12,875 in the expenditure at Dacca, due to the fact that the preceding year's expenditure included outstanding amounts of previous years. Actually the municipality installed 39 new electric lights and 93 more kerosene lights, while the Narayanganj municipality also increased the number of its electric lights by 23. The scheme for the electrification of the town of Barisal came to fruition towards the close of the year, and the new street lighting was a great improvement. The marked increase of Rs. 20,204 in expenditure at Darjeeling was due to certain improvements in electric works and construction of buildings for the new system of electric supply, as well as to the extension of the power houses at Sidrapong. In Kurseong the increase of Rs. 5,203 was due to payment of the full amount to the Hydro-electric Supply Company for the supply of electric energy, while the increase in Rangpur (Rs. 4,806) and Rajshahi (Rs. 1,831) was on account of payment of arrear dues. The scheme for electrification of the town of Rajshahi made some progress. Jalpaiguri completed the electrification of some of its main roads, and maintained 316 street lights, including 116 electric lights. The main streets of the municipality of Rangpur, which as yet imposes no lighting tax, continued to be lit with electricity, and the commissioners expected gradually to replace all the kerosene lights in lanes and by-lanes with electric lights. The streets of Serajganj were lit with electricity under the management of a new

company; but there was no prospect of electrification of Pabna town, the licensee having failed to perform the obligations laid down in the contract, and his license being cancelled by Government. The growth of local electric supply companies promises great possibilities, and it seems that the time is not far distant when all district headquarter towns, mill municipalities and other municipal towns with substantial means will enjoy the amenities of electric lighting.

Public Health.

244. As in previous years, most of the municipalities took steps to improve sanitation by filling up, cleaning or disinfecting insanitary tanks, ditches and *dobas*, and by removing jungle and obnoxious vegetation. Notices were issued to owners for the clearance of undergrowth from private lands, and in most cases they were said to have been complied with. Anti-malarial works were carried out in many municipalities. Raniganj received a Government grant of Rs. 1,000 for this purpose, and tanks, *dobas*, wells and lower paddy fields in the municipality were treated with "Paris green," "Malariol" and kerosine oil regularly. Arambagh spent a similar grant of Rs. 2,000 in filling up and re-excavating some insanitary tanks, and in cutting down jungle. A malaria survey of the town of Narayanganj was made by the Entomologist of the Public Health Department, and according to his recommendation the kerosining of tanks, etc., was undertaken. At Rajbari the breeding grounds of mosquitoes were sprayed with pasterine for the prevention of malaria, which was mainly responsible for the bad health of the town; and the mosquito-growing drains, *dobas* and cess-pools in Rajshahi municipality, and a certain part of the Ghagra Canal running through the town of Dinajpur, were kerosined by the municipalities concerned. In connection with malaria at Rangpur, it was reported that a malaria survey undertaken in 1933 showed the spleen index to be at the maximum in areas near about the Skrine Canal, and it was concluded that this canal, which had been left uncared for during the last few years and had silted up and obstructed the drainage of the town, was responsible for the disease. The reclamation of the canal was accordingly undertaken, and was completed by the end of the year under report. Measures were also taken by certain municipalities to eradicate water-hyacinth. The activities of Jessore and Kotechandpur were very prominent in this respect. All the private tanks in the former were cleaned of the pest, and the portion of the river Bhairab, which had been cleared by the municipality in the preceding year, was kept clear with the help of the local public. In South Dum Dum the Irrigation Department partly removed the water-hyacinth from the Bagjola Khal, which was the subject matter of complaint for

several years. The municipal commissioners of Gaibandha and Jalpaiguri also took steps for removal of water-hyacinth from the municipal areas, and the Nator municipality persuaded the Nator Raj to remove water-hyacinth from lands in its estates. Anti-malarial work on scientific lines were conducted by Krishnagar, Santipur and Kushtia, and the Birnagar Palli Mandali continued to do excellent work with the co-operation of the local municipality. All of these townships, however, received substantial financial assistance from Government. The municipalities of North and South Dum Dum, Bhatpara, Budge Budge and Baruipur also did useful work in combating malaria in co-operation with local anti-malarial societies. Municipal authorities generally showed energy in taking measures for the prevention and control of epidemic diseases. There was an outbreak of small-pox in Suri, but the municipality took all necessary preventive measures. Stringent measures were taken by a large number of municipalities to vaccinate and revaccinate children, and primary and secondary vaccinations were in most cases given free of charge. The mill municipalities in the district of the 24-Parganas were generally very keen about enforcing vaccination and revaccination. Several municipalities employed permanent vaccinators for this purpose, and Bankura employed an additional female vaccinator temporarily for some months. Cholera broke out in an epidemic form in Bankura, Vishnupur, Sonamukhi, Midnapore, Tamluk and Bally. The sanitary staff of the Midnapore district did its best to check the further spread of the disease, and the epidemic was brought under control. In the town of Bankura preventive measures were adopted promptly to combat the disease. House to house free inoculations with anti-cholera vaccine were resorted to, and the help of the doctors from the Public Health Department and the Bankura district board was obtained. Most of the municipalities on the banks of the Ganges, which had an unusual rush of pilgrims on the occasion of the last *Ardhodaya Yoga*, took special and successful measures for the prevention of epidemic diseases. At Nabadwip, however, where there were many cases of cholera, some of which proved fatal, the results were not equally successful, but the municipality, tackled the situation with credit and performed more than 15,000 anti-cholera inoculations. There were also sporadic cases of cholera at Krishnagar, Kushtia, Ranaghat, Santipur and several other municipalities, but as prompt and effective steps were taken in almost all these places, the disease did not spread in epidemic form. Beri-beri broke out in epidemic form at Santipur, Rajbari and Patuakhali, and several cases of death were reported. The help of the Public Health Department was sought, and the epidemics were ultimately brought under control by fol-

lowing the advice of that Department. Special arrangements for the treatment of kala-azar, leprosy and anti-rabic patients were made by a number of municipalities. A kala-azar centre was opened at South Dum Dum at the local charitable dispensary, where free injections were given to patients by the medical officer in charge. The Nadia branch of the Red Cross Society treated kala-azar patients in one centre, but it was handicapped by lack of funds. The decentralization of anti-rabic treatment was a notable feature of the year, and all the municipalities of the Nadia district came forward to equip their dispensaries for the purpose. In the 24-Parganas, South Dum Dum joined with Dum Dum, and Panihati with Khardah, for the maintenance of centres for the treatment of anti-rabic patients. Arrangements for anti-rabic treatment were made in all the municipalities in the Bakarganj district, while the Chittagong municipality made arrangements for killing rabid, suspected and ownerless dogs by administering poison. During the year under report 726 cases were treated in the free leprosy treatment centres of the Dacca municipality, of which 49 per cent. were Hindus and the rest Muslims. Besides these, 225 other patients were traced by the medical officers, but could not be induced to attend the centres for treatment. The Food Adulteration Act was more vigorously administered than in previous year. The seizure of foodstuffs and their examination by the Health Officers, Sanitary Inspectors and also by the Public Health Department on requisition from the municipalities, were more in evidence during the year under report. In most cases unwholesome stuffs were destroyed, and in others prosecutions were started. In the Rajshahi division there were 113 prosecutions, against 73 in the previous year. In Dacca municipality alone there were 338 prosecutions under the Food Adulteration Act, of which 246, together with 52 cases pending from the previous year, were disposed of during the year under review, and the total fines realised amounted to Rs. 1,713. The practice of adulterating food stuffs was reported to be very common in Dacca, and special activity on the part of the municipal staff was required to check the evil. In the Presidency Division there were altogether 248 prosecutions, of which 85 were reported to have ended in conviction. Maternity welfare work in the outlying towns is still in an elementary stage, but there seems to have been some recognition of the need for such work by certain municipalities. Training classes for *dais* at Krishnagar and Nabadwip continued to do useful work, and some other municipalities were taking steps to open such classes with the aid of Government grants for the purpose. The Chittagong municipality opened a training class for indigenous *dais* with a Government grant of Rs. 95, and employed a trained midwife for free

attendance at delivery cases among poor people. Two parks were opened by the Berhampore municipality in commemoration of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee, and one of these was reserved for the use of the ladies and children.

Public works.

245. The total expenditure on public works rose from Rs. 11·75 lakhs to Rs. 12·36 lakhs. The increase was due to an increased expenditure of Rs. 1,09,516 by the municipalities in the Burdwan Division; while the municipalities of the Presidency, Chittagong and Dacca Divisions reduced their expenditure on public works by Rs. 17,525, Rs. 12,361, Rs. 10,759 and Rs. 7,871, respectively. The total length of metalled roads maintained by municipalities was 1,447 miles, and of unmetalled roads 1,576 miles. There was a net increase of Rs. 97,329 in the expenditure on roads in the Burdwan Division, which was shared more or less by 12 municipalities. The increase in Burdwan (Rs. 15,514), Vishnupur (Rs. 2,230) and Bally (Rs. 4,875¼), was mainly due to payment of road repair bills of the previous year, while Midnapore spent Rs. 8,438 more on construction of and repairs to roads. In the Presidency Division nearly 81 per cent. of the total expenditure on public works was spent on roads; but this represented a reduction of about Rs. 15,000 on the figures of the previous year, for which Baranagar, Garulia, Tollyganj, Nabadwip and Halisahar were mainly responsible. The municipalities of Budge Budge, Khardah, Krishnagar, Naihati and Bhatpara, however, increased their expenditure on roads, which needed greater attention on account of wear and tear from increased motor traffic. There was a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 21,334 in Darjeeling, owing to large expenditure on capital works in the previous year. The increase in Rajshahi (Rs. 2,799), Rangpur (Rs. 1,850) and Bogra (Rs. 1,252) mainly represented increased expenditure on road repairs, while that in Pabna (Rs. 2,485) was due to payment of arrears and heavy repairs to certain important roads. The programme of colfixing roads in Dinajpur municipality was continued during the year under report and the portion of the road in front of the municipal office was colfixed. The condition of roads in most municipalities was reported to be far from satisfactory.

Audit of accounts.

246. The accounts of all the municipalities were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts and his staff. Two cases of defalcation of municipal money were detected at Midnapore, one of which ended in conviction, while the other was pending at the close of the year. An amount of Rs. 1,042 embezzled by the tax-daroga of the Halisahar municipality was recovered and the man dismissed from service, but no prosecution was started. A case of alleged temporary misappropriation was detected by the District

Magistrate of the 24-Parganas in the Joynagar municipality, and the Vice-Chairman was criminally prosecuted in this connection. The audit of accounts of the Khulna municipality revealed some irregularities of a serious nature, and the municipal accountant was placed under suspension pending enquiry. A case of embezzlement was reported from Netrokona. Serious cases of defalcation and falsification of accounts were detected in Bhola as a result of special audit, and prosecutions were started against the persons implicated in the matter. Another serious case of defalcation was brought to light in Comilla, where the tax-daroga, two collecting sarkars and the warrant peon misappropriated a sum of Rs. 4,355. All of them were removed from service, and information was lodged with the police to start prosecutions. A case of embezzlement by the tax-daroga and the collecting sarkar was also reported from Sherpur (Bogra), but the municipal commissioners, instead of criminally prosecuting the offenders, let them off with small fines. The large increase in the number of embezzlement cases should be an eye-opener to all municipal commissioners, and the tendency of some to deal leniently with offenders is one which must be abandoned completely. In Chittagong, the audit revealed a very unsatisfactory financial condition, which appeared to be deteriorating without any serious efforts being made at improvement. The submission of evasive replies, and great delay in taking action on audit notes, continued to be a marked feature of most municipalities, while laxity of supervision on the part of the municipal executives was reported to have been responsible for a large number of irregularities, some of which amounted to serious breaches of the Municipal Account Rules.

## District Boards.

District Boards.

247. During the year under review there were 26 district boards operating in the Province, the total membership of which rose from 694 to 696, of whom 448 were elected members, 147 were appointed non-officials and 101 were officials. The Chittagong, Burdwan and Bankura district boards were reconstituted during the year, and the increase in the number of members was due to the District Magistrate of Bankura being appointed as official Chairman of the Bankura district board, and to a vacancy in this board being filled up at the time of its reconstitution. There were elected Chairmen in all the district boards, with three exceptions. As usual the Darjeeling district board had a nominated official Chairman in the person of the Deputy Commissioner; while at Midnapore and Bankura the District Magistrate were

reappointed as Chairmen, the affairs of these two boards requiring their personal direction. During the year under review 389 meetings were held, against 365 in the previous year. Of these, 5 proved abortive for want of a quorum and 16 were adjourned, as compared with 2 and 7 respectively in 1933-34. The percentage of attendance was highest in Hooghly, Pabna, Faridpur and 24-Parganas, being 87, 87, 86·4 and 85·7, respectively, and lowest in Tippera and Darjeeling, being 63·55 and 65·6, respectively. All the district boards with the exception of Mymensingh and Darjeeling held their meetings at least once a month. As compared with the previous year, the percentage of attendance of the official members increased in all the districts except Nadia, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Bogra, Malda and Darjeeling, while that of non-official members decreased in Nadia and Mymensingh.

Local boards.

248. The number of Local Boards was 84, as in the previous year; and they were presided over by 80 non-official and 4 official Chairmen. The total number of members was 1,381, consisting of 85 officials, 433 appointed non-officials and 863 elected members. The boards held altogether 679 meetings, against 738 in the previous year, and of these, 5 meetings proved abortive for want of a quorum and 10 were adjourned. The average percentage of attendance was highest (94·44) at Cox's Bazar and lowest (10·02) at Contai.

Union Committees.

249. There were only 13 union committees in the Presidency, viz., 7 in Midnapore, 5 in the 24-Parganas and one in Jalpaiguri Of these, only the Contai and Danton union committees in Midnapore and the Hazipur union committee in the 24-Parganas levied a local tax under Section 118C of the Local Self-Government Act, and only 4 union committees, viz., Contai in Midnapore, and Hazipur, Mograhat and Mokarchak in the 24-Parganas, were in receipt of allotments from the district boards. The Danton union committees utilised its taxes, but the others depended entirely upon receipts from other sources. The Diamond Harbour union committee in the 24-Parganas did practically no work at all, and the union committee constituted at Alipur Duar in Jalpaiguri had not begun to function during the year under review.

Finance.

250. The total receipts, excluding opening balances, amounted to Rs. 173·44 lakhs against Rs. 166·51 lakhs in 1933-34. The receipts under "Local rates" increased from Rs. 82·28 lakhs in 1933-34 to Rs. 96·53 lakhs; under "Interest" from Rs. 1·84 lakhs to Rs. 2·37 lakhs; under "Medical" from Rs. 15·73 lakhs to Rs. 16·59 lakhs; under "Miscellaneous" from Rs. 3·99 lakhs to Rs. 5·3 lakhs; and under "Railway" from Rs. 62,014 to

Rs. 67,748. The receipts under the head "Police" fell from Rs. 1·65 lakhs in 1933-34 to Rs. 1·37 lakhs; under "Education" from Rs. 21·59 lakhs to Rs. 14·79 lakhs; under "Irrigation and minor works and navigation" from Rs. 34,043 to Rs. 29,335; under "Law and Justice" from Rs. 40,606 to Rs. 30,061; and under "Civil Works" from Rs. 22·85 lakhs to Rs. 20·63 lakhs. The total expenditure chargeable to current income fell from Rs. 146·10 lakhs in 1933-34 to Rs. 144·7 lakhs. The expenditure under the head "Administration" rose from Rs. 6·82 lakhs to Rs. 7·3 lakhs; under Scientific and other minor departments" from Rs. 2·38 lakhs to Rs. 2·57 lakhs; under "Superannuation allowance and pension" from Rs. 2·18 lakhs to Rs. 2·33 lakhs; under "Famine Relief" from Rs. 31,408 to Rs. 82,613; and under "Civil works" from Rs. 57·90 lakhs to Rs. 60·27 lakhs. The expenditure under the head "Interest" fell from Rs. 1,15,267 in 1933-34 to Rs. 98,458; under "Law and Justice" from Rs. 17,426 to Rs. 14,338; under "Education" from Rs. 37·22 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs; under "Medical" from Rs. 35·74 lakhs to Rs. 33·10 lakhs; under "Miscellaneous" from Rs. 1·58 lakhs to Rs. 1·43 lakhs; and under "Minor Works" from Rs. 10,189 to Rs. 9,132.

**Education.**

251. The total income fell from Rs. 21·59 lakhs in 1933-34 to Rs. 14·79 lakhs. This was due to a reduction in the Government contribution, mainly owing to the establishment of district school boards in some districts under the provisions of the Primary Education Act, whereby Government grants formerly received by the district boards concerned were transferred to the new school boards. A corresponding decline in expenditure was similarly due to the adoption of the optional scheme provided for in the Act. None of the district boards maintained any High English schools; but the total number of boards' Middle English schools was 42 with 1,834 pupils, and these involved an expenditure of Rs. 89,305 against receipts amounting to Rs. 27,036. The number of board-aided Middle English schools was 1,020 with 83,954 pupils, and grants-in-aid to these totalled Rs. 81,061. The total number of lower and upper primary schools aided and maintained by the district boards was 42,735, as against 52,954 in 1933-34, and the total number of pupils was 1,511,218 against 1,730,661. The fall in the number of schools and pupils was principally due to the starting of school boards in several districts. The total expenditure on primary education fell from Rs. 27·98 lakhs to Rs. 22·58 lakhs. In Burdwan the primary schools were under the management and control of union boards, except in the Asansol subdivision and in the jungle mahals in the Sadar subdivision. Two union boards maintained 3 Biss schools, and one union board continued to maintain a free primary school,

which was started seven years ago on a voluntary basis. The Bankura district board maintained 34 free primary schools on the basis of the Biss scheme, with 1,797 pupils; and in Midnapore there were 113 primary schools, of which 5 were under the Biss scheme and 8 were girls schools. In Hooghly, 5 union boards continued to maintain free primary schools under the Biss scheme. The number of recognised night schools for the education of the labouring and cultivating classes was 28 with 627 pupils, against 34 with 704 pupils in the preceding year. In Howrah, five primary schools under the Biss scheme and 6 under Mr. Griffith's scheme were maintained; and the 24-Parganas district board maintained 23 free primary schools and paid Rs. 1,000 as grants-in-aid to Sanskrit *tols*. District school boards were established under the Bengal Rural Primary Education Act in the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia; 50 free lower primary schools and maktabs were maintained by the Jessore district board as in previous years; and the free primary schools already opened by the Khulna district board continued to work during the year. In Dacca and Mymensingh, district school boards were established and took over the control of primary schools, the school board in Dacca beginning to function from the 1st September 1934. The Dacca district board directly managed 205 primary schools and also maintained one Middle English school. The Mymensingh board maintained 8 Middle English schools, and the Faridpur board 17 free primary schools under Biss scheme, including a free maktab. There was no noticeable change in the number of schools in Bakarganj. In Chittagong and Noakhali, district school boards were established, to which the Chittagong and Noakhali district boards contributed Rs. 43,841 and Rs. 46,160, respectively. The expenditure incurred by the Chittagong board under the head "Grants-in-aid" to different Middle English schools, madrassahs and *tols* fell from Rs. 83,294 in the previous year to Rs. 10,340, and this large decrease affected the schools considerably. The number of primary schools maintained and aided by the Tippera board was 3,328 with 147,662 pupils, and the board spent Rs. 59,815 on primary schools, against Rs. 56,560 in the previous year. This board expended Rs. 1,38,071 on account of grant-in-aid and stipends to different educational institutions against Rs. 1,34,236 in the previous year; and the increase was due to larger grants being paid as stipends in boys' primary schools and maktabs. In the Rajshahi Division 5 High English schools (4 of them for girls) received suitable aid from the district boards; and the number of Middle English schools maintained and aided by the boards rose from 302 to 313. Rangpur showed a definite increase in the number of aided primary schools during the year under review; and the district boards

of Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, and Rangpur continued to maintain 4, 4 and 12 free primary schools, respectively, under the Biss scheme. It was significant that Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri and Malda districts did not appreciably increase their school-going populations, and that the percentage of school-going boys rose only slightly in Rangpur. Darjeeling on the other hand recorded definite progress in this respect; but it is regrettable that the number of school boards in the division did not increase during the year. There were 40 industrial and technical schools maintained or aided by the district boards, and these imparted instruction to 1,666 pupils during the year under review. Among industrial institutions thus maintained or aided by district boards were the Diamond Jubilee Industrial School at Rajshahi; the Coronation Technical School and the District Weaving School at Khulna; the Technical School at Burdwan; the Moberley Technical School, the Bhotnath Agricultural School, and the Chinsurah Agricultural School at Hooghly; the Industrial School at Vishnupur; the Weaving School at Zarwarganj; the Peripatetic Weaving School in Noakhali; and the Kashi Kishore Technical School at Mymensingh. The Bankura Board contributed Rs. 2,400 to the Bankura Medical School, Rs. 360 to the Music School at Vishnupur and Rs. 60 to the Girls' Music School at Ajodhya. In order to keep alive the Jackson Medical School Jalpaiguri, which was threatened with disaffiliation for lack of efficient hospital arrangement, the boards of the Rajshahi Division accepted proportional responsibility for a loan of Rs. 1,28,000 for effecting essential improvements to the hospital attached to and forming an integral part of the school; and the boards, along with the Tea Interests, also agreed to contribute the increased cost of maintenance of the improved hospital. Preliminary arrangements regarding the scheme in hand have since been completed, and the improvement of the buildings has been taken in hand. The scheme is designed to provide a first class modern hospital at the headquarters of the division, to which complicated cases may be sent, and at the same time to maintain a high standard of training for boys from all the districts in the division. This scheme affords an excellent example of co-ordinated effort on the part of local authorities, and might well be followed in other divisions.

**Public Health and medical relief.**

252. The income under the head "Medical" rose from Rs. 15·73 lakhs to Rs. 16·59 lakhs, the increase being due to a larger Government contribution. The expenditure, however, fell from Rs. 35·74 lakhs to Rs. 33·10 lakhs. The number of dispensaries aided and maintained by district boards rose from 1,026 to 1,073, and there were 642 dispensaries maintained at an average cost of Rs. 1,764 and 431 dispensaries aided at an average

cost of Rs. 828. Several district boards maintained or aided dispensaries following systems of treatment other than allopathic, and homœpathic dispensaries appear to be on the increase owing to their cheapness. On the whole the rural public health organisations, for which district board received grants from Government, proved useful in controlling epidemics and carrying on health propaganda. The noticeable defects were lack of co-ordination and supervision, and Government have under consideration the question of improving the working of these health units. Considerable success is said to have attended the experiment to control malaria by the use of plasmochin and quinine in Memari thana of the Burdwan district under the supervision of the Director of Public Health; and the campaign against kala-azar, by the provision of facilities for treatment in affected areas, was attended with good results in certain districts of the Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. Suitable anti-malarial measures were taken by the district boards of Burdwan, Birbhum and Howrah; and special arrangements for the treatment of leprosy were made by the district boards of Mymensingh, Bankura, Midnapore, Howrah, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Bogra. Effective measures were also taken by district boards for the prevention of small-pox; and during the year under review the district boards of Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Pabna, Tippera, Noakhali and Midnapore continued to maintain female vaccinators, who did good work among purdanashin ladies. Special sanitary arrangements were made in fairs and melas in the Rajshahi Division. The decentralised scheme of anti-rabic treatment, under which local bodies took over the treatment of patients in their hospitals, turned out to be a success and effected considerable relief. Action under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, was taken by all district boards and led to a definite improvement in checking the adulteration of food stuffs, and in this respect district boards compared favourably with municipalities. The punishments inflicted on conviction were more adequate than in other years. Cholera broke out in an epidemic form in Malda and in parts of the Burdwan, Birbhum and Hooghly districts. Although every effort was made in Malda to fight the disease, it took a considerable time to control the epidemic. Cholera appeared in an epidemic form throughout the district of Bakarganj, and the outbreaks were of a more violent type than in the preceding year. The board took vigorous steps by inoculating with anti-cholera vaccine 161,241 persons against 136,366 in the preceding year, and by disinfecting 3,790 tanks against 3,498 in 1933-34. Both primary vaccination and revaccination were carried on very effectively in almost all the districts.

**Veterinary.**

253. The veterinary receipts and charges rose respectively from Rs. 2,181 and Rs. 1,79,418 in 1933-34 to Rs. 2,249 and Rs. 1,79,504. The expenditure under this head increased in Dacca, Chittagong and Presidency Divisions, but decreased in Rajshahi and Burdwan. Some of the district boards paid considerable attention to the improvement of stock, and the district boards of Birbhum, Midnapore, Howrah, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Malda, and Darjeeling maintained stud bulls for improving the breed of cattle.

**Civil Works.**

254. The total receipts under this head fell from Rs. 22,85,331 in 1933-34 to Rs. 20,63,356, the decrease being mainly due to the decrease in Government contribution from Rs. 12,96,854 to Rs. 10,88,712 and in ferry receipts from Rs. 51,469 to Rs. 26,298. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 57,89,817 to Rs. 60,26,799, the increase being mainly under the heads "Original Works—Buildings," "Water-supply Repairs" and "Communications—Original." The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 36 lakhs, representing about 37 per cent. of the total receipts from local rates, and the increase of over Rs. 1 lakh shows that some of the boards paid more attention to communications and abandoned the policy of starving the roads to find money for other purposes. In the Dacca Division, however, the total expenditure on communication showed a small decrease of Rs. 2,849. The expenditure on "Original works" rose in all the districts except Mymensingh, where there was a decrease of Rs. 6,181. The expenditure on "Repairs" increased in Dacca and Faridpur, but fell in Mymensingh and Bakarganj. The expenditure out of the grant from the Road Development Fund on the improvement of the Dacca district board portion of the Dacca-Narayanganj road decreased from Rs. 1,02,383 in 1933-34 to Rs. 64,501; but similar expenditure on the improvement of the Mymensingh-Tangail road rose from Rs. 49,372 to Rs. 1,14,229. In the Burdwan Division there was an increase of Rs. 56,534 in expenditure on communications, and in the Presidency Division the expenditure on communication showed an increase of Rs. 33,145. The expenditure on "Original Works" was less than on "Repairs" in all the districts except in Jessore, where it slightly increased. A sum of Rs. 1,13,400 was spent by the Jessore district board out of the grant from the provincial share of the Road Fund Account on the improvement of the Magura-Jhenidah road.

**Water-supply.**

255. The total expenditure under this head fell from Rs. 5,96,753 to Rs. 5,80,381, and the decrease was shared by all the divisions except Presidency and Dacca. In the 24-Parganas and Jessore districts the expenditure on original works increased,

and that on repairs decreased, while the expenditure in Nadia and Khulna decreased in respect of both. The expenditure in Murshidabad on original works decreased, but there was an increase of expenditure on repairs. In Khulna 115 tube-wells were sunk and 12 tanks excavated during the year; and the Dacca district board maintained the waterworks at Munshiganj at a cost of Rs. 2,923. In Mymensingh 101 masonry wells, 79 tube-wells and 33 ferro-concrete wells were constructed and 3 tanks excavated during the year under report; and 57 masonry wells were repaired, as against 38 in the preceding year. The Faridpur district board employed a tube-well inspector with a number of mechanics, and each subdivisional union board association maintained a party of workmen for sinking and maintaining union board tube-wells. Two itinerant mechanics were also employed to effect local repairs. The Chittagong district board adopted a cautious policy in giving loans for water-supply, and the decrease in its expenditure was attributable to this policy. The Noakhali district board granted loans to owners of suitable tanks for excavation, on terms of repayment in 10 equal annual instalments without interest. The Burdwan district board excavated 25 masonry wells and 184 tube-wells at a cost of Rs. 47,936, and also spent Rs. 14,104 on repairing and clearing masonry wells and repairing and resinking tube-wells. In Bankura the expenditure under this head was Rs. 25,908, and twenty additional "Jubilee" wells, one in each thana, was sanctioned by the district board in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King-Emperor. In Midnapore 135 tube-wells was sunk by local boards; the local boards of Jhargram and Sadar each excavated a tank; and the union committee of Contai sank 3 tube-wells. After the close of the year the Midnapore district board submitted a proposal for a water-supply loan of Rs. 7 lakhs, to be spent in a three year's programme. In Hooghly the problem of drinking water-supply was solved to an appreciable extent, and the tube-well scheme proved very successful. With the exception of one thana, where the laterite soil presents difficulties, there is now hardly a village in this district that has not at least one tube-well. The Howrah district board sank 13 new tube-wells, resank 34 wells and paid contributions to certain union boards for this purpose. During the year under report the board fully utilised the unspent balance of Rs. 1,638 of the water-supply loan for sinking tube-wells, and prepared a programme of schemes for re-excavation of tanks out of the unspent balance amounting to Rs. 6,283 out of the water-supply loan for tanks. No expenditure was incurred out of the latter loan during the year under report, as preliminary arrangements were not finished before the proper season for re-excavation. A sum of Rs. 3,261 was spent

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by the board on repairs to existing tube-wells and on establishment. In Rajshahi 16 reinforced concrete ring wells and 25 tube-wells were completed, and 13 reinforced concrete ring wells, and 8 tube-wells were in course of construction. The Jalpaiguri district board paid the last instalment of Rs. 10,000 to the Jalpaiguri municipality towards the cost of the waterworks scheme; and cement concrete ring wells were sunk and platforms constructed for wells sunk in previous year. In Rangpur 11 tube-wells, 10 masonry wells and 44 cement concrete ring wells were completed during the year. The Bogra district board sank 426 tube-wells during the year under report, and continued its progressive policy as regards maintenance of wells through the services of itinerant mechanics. In Pabna 9 new masonry wells, 2 cement concrete and 17 tube-wells were begun; and 3 tube-wells and 34 masonry wells which were started in previous years were completed and finally paid for. Altogether 43 masonry wells were under construction in the district of Malda during the year under report. Three of these were taken up by the board, and the rest were mostly entrusted to union boards, which were able to carry out the work at cheaper rates.

# CHAPTER VIII.

## Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation.

### Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1934-35.]

Research and experiment.

256. During the year under review the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research financed a number of schemes. These comprised a sugarcane seedling testing station at Dacca, an investigation into problems of animal nutrition, an enquiry into the problems of soil physics, an improvement of trade rices in Western Bengal, an economic enquiry into the costs of cultivation of sugarcane and other rotation crops, and a horticultural station at Krishnagar. The Council also continued its financial assistance to the Calcutta University work on soil coloids, the Dacca University work on mechanical analysis of soils and nutrition of rice, and Prof. P. C. Mahalanabis' statistical researches in the Presidency College, Calcutta. Funds were also provided by the Council for an investigation into the systematic cultivation of medicinal plants and to the study of food poisons by Col. R. N. Chopra at the Tropical School of Medicines, Calcutta. A scheme for investigating the possibilities of improving Comilla cotton was financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and work was taken up at Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts; while an investigation into the village consumption of cotton in Bengal at the instance of the Indian Central Cotton Committee was completed.

Agricultural education.

257. The number of students applying for admission into the Dacca Secondary Agricultural School was again far in excess of the seats available. Of the 16 applicants admitted into the 1st year class of the school in January 1935, 6 were Muhammedans, 7 Hindus, 2 Christians and 1 a Buddhist. District Boards showed an increased interest in agricultural education, and the Boards of Dacca, Mymensingh, Jessore and Noakhali each provided a stipend for one local student, whilst the Bakarganj District Board provided stipends for four students. A student from Cooch-Behar received a stipend from the State. Since the status of the school has been raised and the curriculum revised, there has been

a marked improvement in the type of men turned out by it, their general education being of a much higher standard. Fifty-four schools participated in the scheme introduced in 1927 for instruction in agriculture in High English and Middle English schools; but during the year Government aid was withdrawn from 3 schools. Of the remaining schools, 25 are High English schools and 26 Middle English schools. During the year 3,084 students received instruction in the theory and practice of agriculture, the area under cultivation being 216 acres. Progress in 16 schools was reported to be excellent, and in 13 schools good, whilst in the remaining schools it was fair or indifferent. The financial depression was reported to be mainly responsible for the poor results obtained in many of the schools. Inspectors of Schools took an increased interest in the teaching of nature study in Primary schools; but their reports continued to be depressing, owing mainly to the lack of trained teachers. Attempts are being made to rectify this by improving equipment and teaching in Guru Training Schools.

**Agricultural Farms.**

258. There were during the year 20 district agricultural farms, which constituted centres for experiment, demonstration and seed multiplication. In a number of districts, viz., Noakhali, Chittagong, Midnapore, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Khulna and Jessore, farms have not yet been established. In Jessore a small khasmahal farm was utilised for demonstration and seed multiplication. During the year results from kharif crops were, on the whole, very good, but the season was unfavourable for rabi crops. There was a gradual improvement in the fertility of the soil of the farms, produced by working to a rotation and by better cultivation and manuring. On Government farms in Bengal yields of 25 maunds per acre and over of both autumn and winter paddy are now the rule. The work in the two farms in the reserved areas, one at Kalimpong in the Darjeeling district and the other at Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, continued to be specialised, the problems met with being very different from those encountered in plains districts. Private farms continued to be valuable centres for the multiplication of departmental seed and for demonstration of departmental methods.

**Seed distribution.**

259. During the year under review the following quantities of improved varieties of seeds and cuttings were distributed throughout the Province:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Paddy seeds .. .. .. | 5,699 Maunds. |
| Jute seed .. .. .. | 132 Maunds. |
| Sugarcane cuttings .. .. | 11,878,381 |
| Tobacco seeds .. .. .. | 3,754 tolas. |

The total area under improved departmental crops was estimated as follows:—

| | Acres. |
|---|---|
| Paddy .. .. .. | 598,060 |
| Jute .. .. .. | 1,090,250 |
| Sugarcane .. .. .. | 130,838 |
| Tobacco .. .. .. | 7,384 |

Cattle Breeding.

260. Considerable progress was made in the improvement of live-stock in the districts of Malda, Rajshahi, Nadia and Hooghly, where Live-stock Officers were posted, each officer being in charge of two districts. The appointment of 3 extra Live-stock Officers was sanctioned by Government. Fourteen bulls were maintained at the District Farms, as against 15 of previous year. These bulls covered 1,088 cows, as against 1,229 for last year. Twenty young bulls were distributed free from the surplus stock of the Dacca Farm, and the premium scheme continued to operate. It was, however, decided to reduce the amount of premium for each individual premium holder from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5, thus allowing an increased number of owners of bulls to receive the premium, and ensuring that their bulls would come under departmental supervision. The bulls under the premium system covered 2,733 cows, as against 2,333 during the previous year.

Agricultural Engineering.

261. The Agricultural Engineer continued his work on the designing and production of improved machinery. The demonstration sugar factory at Rajshahi worked for some time, but had to be closed down early owing to shortage of supply of sugarcane. A number of *bhadralog* youths received instruction in sugar manufacture, and have obtained employment in small factories.

Sericulture.

262. During the year under report the strength of the Sericultural Section was further reduced by 12 posts as a measure of retrenchment. Owing to general trade depression there was a further fall in the price of silk, and this decrease is likely to continue until the economic condition of the people improves. The work of rearing indigenous breeds by careful selection in successive generations was continued, special attention being paid to the adaptability of the different stock strains to local conditions. The experiments with foreign univoltines were also continued at Kurseong. Successful results were obtained generally by replacing bush mulberry by tree mulberry, except at Vishnupur, where the dwarf tree and bush plantations were found to be more satisfactory. Considerable damage was done to the plantations at Malda and Murshidabad by floods, which also prevented the further extension of tree mulberry cultivation. As a result of propaganda Eri rearing was extended in the Bogra district. The total number of improved rearing houses in Malda was 2,443, of which 60 were improved by

the demonstration staff during the year under report. A large number of cases of outbreak of epidemic diseases were checked by preventive measures.

## Weather and Crops.

[Seasonal Crop Reprots of Bengal for the year 1934-35.]

Character of the season.

263. In March the weather was too dry for field operations in respect of autumn crops, but from early April seasonable showers in East and North Bengal facilitated sowings. In parts of West Bengal, however, operations commenced somewhat late owing to inadequate rainfall, with the result that a reduced area was brought under cultivation. Occasional showers in May and early June were favourable for preparatory tillage for transplanted winter paddy, sowings in seed-beds and for the growth of the germinated deep-water paddy. Heavy rainfall in the latter part of June, which caused water-logging and affected crops in some important districts of East Bengal, necessitated the premature harvesting of lowland jute. Rainfall in July favoured transplantation of winter paddy in low land tracts, but in high lands progress was slow owing to insufficient rain. In August defective rainfall somewhat delayed transplantation in West and parts of North Bengal. Rainfall in the middle of September further facilitated late transplantation, and good rainfall in October materially helped the growth and final development of transplanted winter paddy. Wet weather in November affected cultivation of early spring crops in some districts, but subsequent dry weather greatly helped further sowings and germination. Occasional winter showers benefited growth and development generally. On the whole the season was satisfactory for winter and rabi crops, and fair for autumn crops.

Area and outturn of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops.

264. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1934-35 of Bhadoi, Aghani and Rabi crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

| Name of crop. | Normal area in acres. | Area cultivated during 1933-34 in acres. | Area cultivated during 1934-35 in acres. | Annual outturn, taking 100 to present the normal outturn per acre. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1933-34. | 1933-35. |
| Bhadoi .. | 9,649,800 | 8,828,200 | 8,636,500 | 79 | 73 |
| Winter rice | 17,018,500 | 15,498,700 | 14,760,000 | 81 | 85 |
| Sugarcane .. | 200,800 | 256,600 | 276,200 | 86 | 86 |
| Other sugar producing plants .. | 55,500 | 53,600 | 53,400 | .. | .. |
| Rabi .. | 4,885,000 | 3,938,800 | 4,195,200 | 78 | 85 |
| Total | 31,809,600 | 28,575,900 | 27,921,300 | | |

265. The *bhadoi* crops were affected more or less by drought in some West and North Bengal districts, and by flood in parts of East Bengal. Subsequent favourable weather conditions improved the prospects in some areas, but sudden floods in September were responsible for the low outturn in Rajshahi and in parts of West Bengal. On the whole, a fairly satisfactory crop was reaped for the province. The outturn of the district *bhadoi* crops for the Presidency was estimated at 73 per cent. of the normal this year, as against 79 per cent. last year. Bhadoi crops (except jute).

266. Except for drought in the early part of the season, jute sowings were generally carried out under favourable circumstances. During the period of harvest conditions were favourable in East and North Bengal. In West Bengal insufficient rainfall and insect attacks affected the crop in places. The area and outturn, omitting Cooch Behar and Tripura States, were respectively estimated at 2,160,400 acres and 7,143,400 bales of 400 lbs. Jute.

267. The weather was not favourable either for transplantation or for the early period of growth of winter rice, owing to drought in parts of West and North Bengal and to a sudden rise of rivers in some important districts of East Bengal. Subsequently floods in September also affected the crops in places in Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore and Rajshahi, but good rainfall in October materially helped the growth and final development of the crop. Subsequent weather conditions were also favourable for harvesting operations, and a satisfactory outturn was reaped for the province as a whole. The average outturn was estimated at 85 per cent. of normal, as against 81 per cent. last year. Winter rice crop.

268. At the outset the weather was generally favourable both for planting and for germination of sugar-cane. Subsequent conditions also proved helpful to growth, except in parts of West Bengal, where prolonged drought somewhat affected the crop. During the period of harvest, pressing operations were carried on favourably and a satisfactory outturn was obtained for the province. This worked out at 86 per cent. of the normal, as against the same estimate last year. Sugarcane.

269. At the outset the weather was wet for preparatory tillage for *rabi* crops, but from the middle of October dry weather facilitated field operations. Rainfall in the first week of November somewhat retarded the growth of crops in some districts, but subsequent dry weather was helpful to further sowings and germination. Occasional winter showers helped growth and development generally. Injury was caused to tobacco by hailstorms Rabi crops.

in some districts, but the season on the whole was satisfactory. The outturn of different *rabi* crops for the province worked out at 85 per cent. of the normal, as against 78 per cent. in the previous year.

**Cotton.**

270. The weather was generally favourable both for sowing and for the early period of growth of cotton. Subsequent conditions also proved beneficial to the growth of the crop, except in Tripura State, where irregular and heavy showers caused some damage. Picking was generally carried on under favourable conditions, and a fairly satisfactory outturn was reaped for the province. The total outturn of cotton (including Tripura State) was estimated at 23,758 bales, as against 23,802 bales last year.

**Area under cultivation.**

271. The total cropped area was estimated at 27,921,300 acres this year, as against 28,575,900 acres last year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the following table:—

| Name of crops. | Normal area in acres. | Area cultivated during 1933-34 in acres. | Area cultivated during 1934-35 in acres. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rice .. .. | 23,533,600 | 21,672,500 | 20,739,700 |
| Food grains other than rice. | 2,020,600 | 1,507,600 | 1,642,700 |
| Jute .. .. | 2,310,300 | 2,142,300 | 2,160,400 |
| Oilseeds .. .. | 1,332,400 | 1,018,700 | 1,050,600 |
| Tobacco .. .. | 291,300 | 285,700 | 307,600 |
| Sugarcane .. .. | 200,800 | 256,600 | 276,200 |

**Prices.**

272. Except in parts of West Bengal the harvest of winter rice was on the whole satisfactory, and that of autumn rice fair. The prices of staple food-grains ruled generally a little higher than in the previous year, but there was little improvement in the price of jute, owing to the large surplus still held by the consumers.

## Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1934-35.]

**Royal Botanic Garden.**

273. During the year the season was, on the whole, favourable for garden operations, but a severe cyclonic storm destroyed no

fewer than 133 trees, including the best palms of the garden. Attempts were made this year, by early preparation of seed beds and by indoor work, to force some of the regular annuals into prime condition for a December display. The experiment indicated the possibility of earlier displays. The orchid house was renovated and remodelled, and the beds and rockeries of which it is mainly composed were lowered with improved effect. An innovation was contemplated in the laying down of a central large bed containing single named representatives of all the species present in the house. Chiefly as an interest to visitors, a rock garden in a secluded place near the pavilion was in course of preparation. It is well shaded and attempts to grow rock and other plants from cooler regions are intended. The presence of a band daily at the kiosk has been an additional attraction to visitors. Routine work of the herbarium went on as usual under the four main departments of activity, namely, identification, acquisition, loan of specimens and distribution. The total number of specimens identified this year for about 112 correspondents was 2,434. Of these, the major collections worked by Mr. Narayanaswami represented Bor's Assam Frontier Aka Hill specimens. About 300 specimens were received from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, from the University of Canton, and from the Singapore Gardens. As usual numbers of herbarium sheets were sent out on loan, the consignment of *Derris* being at Manila under Quisumbing, and the *Burmanniaceae* sheets being at Utrecht, Holland, with Dr. A. Pulle, Director of the Botanical Museum. During the year the Curator of the Herbarium published several papers on a variety of subjects, including the results of his algological works. He is now engaged in preparing, in collaboration with the Superintendent of the Garden, a descriptive and illustrated monograph on Indian water plants, including details on marsh vegetation, which it is expected will be published very soon.

Calcutta Gardens.

274. The display of annuals in all the gardens was up to standard, an item of special interest this year being the presence of *Victoria Regia* in some of the lakes. This American water plant is largely grown in the Malay Archipelago.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

275. Distribution of plants, bulbs, seedlings and seeds were continued as usual, special consignments going to His Majesty's Parks in London and to the Viceregal Gardens at Simla. In replacement of garden casualties, 216 additions were made including *Pyrus Griffithii* and *Rhododendron Aucklandii*, which were new to the garden.

## Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1934-35.]

**Plantations.**

276. The total area under cinchona at the end of the year was 2,585 acres. Extensions amounting to 371 acres were carried out during the year, including the replanting of 259 acres of old blocks coppiced off. The quantity of bark harvested in the year under report was 10,95,369 lbs. against 11,31,960 lbs. in the previous year. At Mungpoo rainfall was below average and drought conditions prevailed towards the end of the year, necessitating special precautions against fire in the plantations. A cyclonic storm at the end of the year caused considerable damage to coolie houses and forest trees, but fortunately cinchona itself did not suffer to any extent. At Munsong the rainfall, though below normal as at Mungpoo was well distributed throughout the year and did not adversely affect the plantation. A severe hailstorm at the end of March 1935, however, did considerable damage in Munsong and Kashyem divisions. Investigation into the nursery disease in the Munsong plantation by Miss Burt of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, was continued, but the disease still awaits identification; practical methods against it have, however, prevented it from making plantings a failure. No virgin ground is available here for extensions, and the plantation can be kept at a fair level of production only through special methods of soil regeneration.

**Factory.**

277. Altogether 1,478,595 lbs. of dried bark were treated in the factory during the year; of this, 1,375,379 lbs. were Bengal bark and the rest belonged to the Government of India. The total quantity of quinine sulphate manufactured during the year was 56,561 lbs. of which 3,597 lbs. belonged to the Government of India. The cost of manufacture from the bark amounted to Rs. 2·721 per lb. The total quantity of cinchona febrifuge manufactured during the year was 23,005 lbs., of which 1,679 lbs. represented the share of the Government of India.

**Finance.**

278. The gross receipts were Rs. 9,04,341, and after deducting Rs. 74,812 (comprising Rs. 37,985 due to the Jails Department as charge for distribution work, and an outstanding of Rs. 36,827) the net receipts amounted to Rs. 8,29,529. The total expenditure of the department including pensionary charges was Rs. 4,27,470. The receipts and expenditure were lower by Rs. 45,524 and Rs. 5,699, respectively, than in the preceding year. The profit on the year's working according to the profit valuation account amounted to Rs. 4,25,213, as against Rs. 4,01,722 in 1933-34, which indicated a satisfactory financial result in comparison with

the previous year. In 1934-35, sales decreased in comparison with the previous year by over Rs. 45,500, the reason being that the unusually high demand of the previous year due to special causes was not maintained. Net receipts (excess of actual money receipts over actual money expenditure) fell by only Rs. 39,800. This compares favourably with the fall in sales. The accumulation of stocks was checked. The sale of quinine sulphate, which had been closed to the public, was thrown open in January 1935. The value of the stocks held (including quinine in the bark) rose at the end of the year by approximately 1½ lakhs of rupees, as against a rise of only about Rs. 8,000 at the end of the preceding year, which was due to the special causes mentioned above, notably the larger amount purchased by Government itself for free distribution.

## Forests.

[Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1935.]

279. During the year under review an area of 6·75 acres in the Jalpaiguri Division was disforested, and the total area of reserved forests in the Northern Circle at the close of the year was 647,931 acres against 648,811 acres in the previous year. In the Southern Circle, 3,394 acres of khas forests were reserved in the Chittagong Division, and 13,802 acres were excluded from the Non-Araipara portion of the Attia Forests of the Dacca-Mymensingh Division as the proprietors were unwilling to keep them under Government management. The total area of reserved forests in the Southern Circle at the close of the year stood at 5,460 square miles against 5,476 square miles in 1933-34. The total decrease in the area of reserved forests in the two circles at the close of the year thus amounted to 17 square miles and 240 acres. In the Northern Circle the area of protected forests remained unaltered. In the Southern Circle the area of protected forests increased from 704 square miles to 741 square miles, consequent on the declaration of khas forests as Protected Forests in the Chittagong Division. As a result of these changes, the total area of all forests (excluding leased lands) at the close of the year was about 10,658 square miles or 13·84 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency, as against 10,639 square miles in the year 1933-34. The area "finally settled" during the year under review was 5·30 square miles in the Chittagong Division. In the Northern Circle the total length of boundaries decreased from 1,423 to 1,420 miles owing to revision. The final boundary

Area.

between the Cinchona and Forest Departments at Munsong was demarcated during the year; and four hundred and five miles of new boundaries were artificially demarcated in the Bhowal Forests of the Dacca-Mymensingh Division at a cost of Rs. 499. The topographical survey, begun by the Survey of India during 1933-34 to settle the dispute with the Tripura State regarding the boundary of the Maini Head Water and Kassalong Reserves, was continued during the year under review, but could not be completed. The Survey of India did not survey any forest areas during the year.

**Communications and Buildings.**

280. Owing to want of funds, no new roads and bridges were constructed during the year, except one bridge over the landing ghat at Kaptai in the Southern Circle, constructed at a cost of Rs. 50. The total expenditure incurred in the construction of new buildings was Rs. 12,690 against Rs. 9,235 in the previous year. Although the need for thorough repairs to buildings was keenly felt in many cases, want of funds prevented any considerable progress in this direction. The total cost of repairs to buildings in the two circles was Rs. 37,100 against Rs. 36,811 in the previous year.

**Working Plans.**

281. The new working plan for the Kurseong Division, excluding Mahaldaram and Dhobijhora, was printed and sanctioned; and the revision of the working plan for the Kalimpong Division was completed during the year. Fellings improved somewhat owing to the slow revival of trade, but they were far below normal. Very little climber cutting was carried out during the year, owing to lack of funds; and the continued neglect of this operation was seriously affecting the condition of the growing stock. In the Southern Circle the prescriptions of the sanctioned working plans were followed as far as circumstances permitted, and all divisional plans were duly sanctioned. In the Chittagong Division, however, the prescriptions of the working plan which is under revision were adhered to.

**Utilisation.**

282. In the Northern Circle departmental extraction of timber was carried out chiefly in the Kurseong and Buxa Divisions. The demand for sal was poor throughout the year, and as sales from depots in the Jalpaiguri Division were very small, no departmental extraction of sal was carried out in the Division during the year, although departmental extraction of Sissoo (Dalbergia Sissoo) and Chilauni (Schima Wallichii) was conducted on a small scale for supply to Railways and the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore, as an experiment. In the Buxa Division the price of sal sleepers was low, and sale of sal logs to the Railways and Sissoo logs to the Gun Carriage Factory at

Jubbulpore was effected at a profit. Logs of miscellaneous species were also supplied, but proved unprofitable. The supply of matchwood to Calcutta continued at a profit; but the demand for departmentally collected fuel fell still further, and a very large quantity remained undisposed of at the close of the year. In the Southern Circle, departmental operations were undertaken in the Kassalong Range of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division on a larger scale. The quantity of timber extracted was 71,750 cubit feet, of which 36,000 cubic feet were extracted by manual labour and departmental elephants and 35,750 cubic feet by the Caterpillar Tractor. Altogether 38,680 cubic feet of timber were sent to the Departmental Timber Depot at Chittagong, of which 23,606 cubic feet were sold during the year. Gazari (Shorea robusta) poles and fuel were extracted departmentally in a large quantity from the Bhowal Forests under the management of the Forest Department. Endeavours were made by the Forest Utilisation Officer, Bengal, to find markets for purchasers' timber, and for timber extracted departmentally. The total value of the year's sales effected by him was Rs. 3,88,083 against Rs. 2,56,363 in 1933-34. The value of sales effected by him in Jalpaiguri and Buxa Division amounted to Rs. 36,923 and Rs. 1,45,774, respectively.

283. In the Northern Circle, all the divisions contributed to the increase in revenue amounting to Rs. 2,23,588. This increase was due to a slight improvement in the timber market. Similarly, in the Southern Circle there was an increase in revenue amounting to Rs. 56,393 as compared with the figures for 1933-34, to which all the divisions contributed. The increase here was due to better prices, to realisation of outstanding revenue and rent from squatters in the Attia Forests, and to increased revenue from the Bhowal Forests. A comparison of the revenue and expenditure of the year with those of the previous year, is given in the following statement:— Financial results.

| | Revenue. | Expenditure. | Surplus. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1933-34 .. | 15,02,561 | 14,42,183 | 60,378 |
| 1934-49 .. | 17,82,542 | 14,90,019 | 2,92,523 |

284. The total value of the sale of forest produce during the year amounted to Rs. 13,78,307 against Rs. 11,81,986 in the previous year. The value of forest produce granted free of royalty was Rs. 64,784 as against Rs. 59,750 in 1933-34. The total value of minor produce disposed of at scheduled rates was Rs. 4,57,995 against Rs. 4,81,880 in the preceding year. The General.

general condition of the departmental elephants was on the whole good; and the total number of elephants on the stock list in the two circles at the close of the year was 25, including 3 calves. In the Buxa Division one cooly was badly mauled by a bear, one man was killed by a tiger and two men and one woman were killed by leopards; while in the Southern Circle forty-four persons were killed by tigers, as compared with 47 in the previous year. Forty-six shooting permits were issued during the year against 37 in 1933-34. Four men and one woman were killed by wild elephants in the Chittagong Division, and in the Dacca Mymensingh Division one person was killed by a leopard. Rs. 4,000 was paid as rewards for 3 tigers killed in the previous year and 37 tigers and 3 cubs killed during the year; but rewards for 4 tigers killed during the year were refused on account of careless preservation of skins in three cases and for shooting an animal in a cage in one case. No reward was paid by the civil authorities during the year for killing tigers. The activities of the Torsa Sankos Fishing and Shooting Association continued; and the object of the game sanctuary in the Buxa Division was achieved, rhino poaching in the locality being brought under control. The collection of tolls for fishing in the rivers within the reserved forests in the district of Khulna amounted to Rs. 12,839 during the year against Rs. 10,494 in the previous year. The result of the joint survey of the Karnafuli drainage area in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division was the reopening of the Barkal toll station on the 1st November 1934, on conditions mutually agreed upon by the Governments of Bengal and Assam. Assam was to get two-thirds of the revenue collected, less two-thirds of the expenditure incurred. During the year, the Divisional Forest Officer, Dacca-Mymensingh Division, exhibited forest produce in the Agricultural Exhibition at Joydebpur (Bhowal), and obtained a first class certificate awarded by the President of the Exhibition.

## Veterinary Department.

[Annual Reports on the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1934-35.]

Civil Veterinary Department.

285. The year under review was one of the cyclic years in which the incidence of mortality of cattle from epidemic diseases was high. Rinderpest alone was responsible for 18,513 deaths, the number of outbreaks being 742. The disease was fairly widespread in North and West Bengal, but with the exception of Bakarganj, East Bengal was practically free. There was also a substantial increase in the death rate from Anthrax. The usual

programme of preventive inoculation was carried out in 890 outbreaks, and about 2 lakhs of animals were inoculated with satisfactory results, the death rate among the protected animals being as low as 0·82 per cent. for the whole province. The striking results which have been obtained by the replacement of the Goat Tissue Vaccine method for the Serum method have proved beyond doubt that this method is the most effective for a campaign against Rinderpest. The vaccine depot, which was started temporarily in 1933, was continued throughout the year. In addition to the inoculations carried out during the year, veterinary assistant surgeons working in the mufassal visited 17,600 villages and treated 123,021 cases, against 16,068 and 152,673 in the preceding year. The reduction in the number of cases treated was due partly to the fall in the number of outbreaks of Foot and Mouth disease, and partly to the fact that restriction in touring was imposed for reasons of economy by various district boards. During the year under review 5,679 scrub bulls unsuitable for breeding purposes were castrated, as against 3,193 in the previous year; and the increase in the number is an indication of the interest taken by the public in the improvement of cattle stock.

Bengal Veterinary College.

286. The popularity of this College, which is the only institution in Bengal for the training of veterinary practitioners, continued unabated, as can be seen from the increasing demand for admission. The number of students on the rolls at the beginning of the session was 203, of whom 66 were from Bengal. The results of the diploma and annual examinations were satisfactory.

## Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1934-35.]

287. During the year there was a marked increase in the number of visitors to the Garden, the total rising to 1,011,616 from 911,621 in the previous year. This was mainly due to the Ardhyodaya Yoga, on which occasion there was a record influx of pilgrims into Calcutta. The gate money receipts rose from Rs. 59,812 to Rs. 65,055. In addition 56,721 persons visited the Garden on free days, as against 49,901 in the preceding year. The number of one-anna visitors during the annual Fancy Fair fell from 21,480 to 20,182 during the year. Owing to the decrease in the number of one rupee visitors on Sunday afternoons the entrance fee was reduced to one anna from 10th March 1935. This necessitated for financial reasons the giving up of the Band, which played on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons. The financial condition of the Garden was on the whole satisfactory, the expenditure having been balanced by income.

288. On the whole, the health of the animals was good. There were many births amongst the ruminants, and in addition two lion cubs were born. Cases of illness and death are unavoidable in a collection of animals in a tropical climate, but fortunately there were no serious losses during the year. The death rate among birds sensibly diminished and the birth-rate increased. The number of animals in the Gardens at the close of the year under review was, 508 mammals, 164 reptiles, and 3,403 birds.

289. The most important acquisition during the year was a pair of Tiger cubs presented by Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon. Gifts of important animals were also received from Mr. C. H. Pitt, Maharani Prafulla Kumari Debi of Bastar State, Mr. S. Chowdhury, Major Jack Meneaude, Mrs. McGregor, Mr. R. I. McAlpin, the Raja of Gouripur, the Raja of Hetampur, Raja Jagat Kishore Acharjya Chowdhury, Mr. M. Patzert, Raja Manilal Singh Roy Bahadur, C.I.E., and His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura. As usual, Indian animals and birds were presented by Mr. W. K. Dods, Vice-President of the Garden. Exchanges of animals and birds were effected with the Zoological Societies of New Zealand, Sydney and Adelaide, as well as with Mr. M. Patzert, Rangoon, Dr. S. C. Law, Monsieur J. Delacour and a local dealer.

290. The principal losses were a female chimpanzee purchased in 1931, which died of tuberculosis; a baby elephant presented by the Maharaja of Dhenkanal, which died of debility; and the only old surviving specimen of Ostriches brought from Hyderabad. During the year animals were sent to the Zoological Societies of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

291. The flower gardens were well maintained as usual, the gardens being awarded prizes at the Agri-Horticultural Society's Flower Show (Dahlia Exhibition) held on 14th January 1935.

## Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1934-35.]

**General development.**

292. The year under report was somewhat gloomy from the Co-operative point of view, but the movement was able to stand its ground without any serious set back. Public confidence, which was shaken in certain areas in 1933 owing to the failure of local Central Banks to pay interest to depositors punctually on due dates, was restored in some degree in consequence of improvement in the payment of interest due to the reduction in the banks'

borrowing rate of interest and to a proportionate reduction in the lending rate of village societies. Owing to unfavourable seasonal influences, the outturn of money crops was generally below expectation, and although the price of jute and paddy rose towards the close of the year, producers could not reap much benefit from this, by reason of shortage of stocks. The repaying capacity of society members therefore remained crippled, and despite encouragement given by the Department to occupations allied to agriculture, to the raising of profitable subsidiary crops, and by way of remissions and reduction of interest rates, no perceptible improvement in repayment was noticed. The policy of consolidation could not be generally applied during the year, and sufficient time is required before the innovations can bear fruit. The reduction in the rate of interest gave considerable relief to societies and their members, and but for this timely step, many Central Banks would have come to grief. The position was rendered increasingly difficult by the overfinancing of societies, the issue of ostensibly short-term loans for long-term purposes, and also by injudicious fixation of kists for repayment. Necessary safeguards were introduced in the shape of annual revision of the property and debt statements of members, assessment of normal credit both of primary societies and their members, and readjustment of the existing system of kists to present conditions. Some of the well-managed Central Banks were troubled with large idle surpluses, but the demand for new societies throughout the Province grew with persistence. The ban on new organisations was lifted by Government under certain safeguards, but no rural agricultural credit societies were registered during the year, and the Department had to be circumspect in the selection of areas for further expansion and in effecting an intensive survey by Central Banks of new centres selected for development. On the non-agricultural side, the question of improvement of the handloom industry engaged the attention of Government, and a substantial non-recurring grant was made by the Government of India for the benefit of handloom workers through the Co-operative Department. Funds, however, were not actually available during the year, and the scheme formulated by the Department to carry on this experiment could not be put into operation. Since the disastrous failure of jute sale and supply societies, no serious attempt has been made to restart them on a sounder and workable basis, but the necessity of marketing agricultural produce through Co-operative Societies was keenly felt. The Paddy Sale Society at Calcutta was able to serve only a small section of the paddy growing area. A scheme was, however, under consideration for an extension of such societies in the near future. Five Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks for providing easy long-term credit to agriculturists were established at Mymensingh,

Pabna, Comilla, Jessore and Birbhum, and Government guaranteed interest on debentures to be floated by the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank Limited to provide long-term capital for these banks to the extent of Rs. 12½ lakhs. Preliminary arrangements necessary for the issue of these debentures were not completed during the year, but the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank advanced necessary loans to enable the banks to commence work. The total number of societies of all classes fell from 23,556 to 23,443 during the year, but the total membership increased from 824,493 to 830,436 or by ·7 per cent.

**Agricultural credit societies.**

293. In view of the necessity of exercising caution and discrimination in the direction of further expansion, no new society was actually organised during the year. The total number of agricultural societies, therefore, declined from 19,895 to 19,807, and the number of members from 457,083 to 452,756. The working capital rose from Rs. 5·73 to Rs. 5·84 crores, but the paid-up share capital fell from Rs. 55·88 lakhs to Rs. 55·44 lakhs. Deposits from members were also reduced to Rs. 18·61 lakhs as against Rs. 19·78 lakhs in the previous year. The reserve fund further improved from Rs. 150·45 to Rs. 165·26 lakhs; and under orders of Government the statutory reserve fund and other special funds created out of profits, hitherto shown together, have now been indicated separately. The internal capital also further increased from Rs. 226·13 lakhs or 39·4 per cent. to Rs. 239·60 lakhs or 41·0 per cent., while borrowings from Provincial and Central Banks amounted to Rs. 328·5 lakhs or 56·2 per cent. of the working capital, as against Rs. 328·72 lakhs or 57·3 per cent. in the previous year. Loans issued to members during the year further decreased from Rs. 32·74 lakhs to Rs. 24·72 lakhs, and actual repayment by members also fell from Rs. 36·36 lakhs to Rs. 29·79 lakhs. Overdues at the close of the year, however, were reduced to Rs. 31 lakhs or 74·7 per cent., as against Rs. 34·0 lakhs or 79·9 per cent. of the last year's total.

**Land Mortgage Banks.**

294. Of the 5 Land Mortgage Banks, the Jessore Bank did not function till after the close of the year. The Birbhum Bank commenced work towards the close of the year, collected a small share capital and took up the investigation of loan applications. To tide over the difficulties created by the existence of co-sharers' interests in the *jotes* of intending applicants for loans, a conference of local landlords was held in April 1935 at Suri presided over by the Collector of the district; and a resolution was unanimously adopted that facilities for subdivision of holdings free of *salami* and other charges be conceded to such applicants on the recommendation of the Manager of the Land Mortgage Bank. The

Department recommended the adoption of such measures by other banks. The Pabna Bank issued loans amounting to Rs. 4,125 to 19 members only. The Mymensingh Bank received 984 loan applications, of which, 142 were accepted, 261 were refused and 581 were under investigation at the close of the year. A total loan of Rs. 19,310 was issued by this bank to 46 members against 331·71 acres of land valued at Rs. 63,946. Of the total amount of Rs. 19,310 advanced so far, Rs. 13,862 was for redemption of mortgage and liquidation of prior debts and Rs. 5,448 for payment of arrear rent. The average period of loan was 15 years. The Comilla Bank investigated 80 loan applications and accepted 65, covering an amount of Rs. 20,735. These were under consideration at the close of the year. The purposes of the proposed loans were redemption of mortgage, discharge of arrear rent and liquidation of other prior debts. The Banks were faced with numerous initial difficulties, particularly in the matter of the conciliation of prior debts of applicants and of inducing co-sharers of holdings to join in loan applications. Legislation to facilitate conciliation of agriculturists' debts has been passed by the Legislative Council since the close of the period under review, and it is hoped that with growing experience and tactful management the initial difficulties in the progress of the Banks will gradually disappear.

Purchase and Sale societies.

295. The number of these societies increased from 74 to 80, their membership from 9,365 to 13,693 and their total working capital from Rs. 5,59,304 to Rs. 7,94,395. The Central Paddy Sale Society at Calcutta handled 112,102 maunds of paddy and rice against 98,637 maunds in the previous year, earned a profit of Rs. 1,447 against Rs. 5 in the previous year, and was able to pay Rs. 1,370 as interest charges due to the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank on account of the closing of the Chetla Branch. The Gosava Jamini Rice Mills continued to do good business and earned a profit of Rs. 3,623 against Rs. 3,669 in the previous year. The Bakarganj Sunderban Sale Society earned a profit of Rs. 13,360, and the Donovan Rice Mill attached to it continued to do well. The Naogaon Ganja Co-operative Credit Society sold 1,560 maunds of ganja and 212 maunds of bhang as against 1,689 maunds of ganja and 246 maunds of bhang in the previous year. The excise duty on ganja was enhanced from Rs. 40-4 to Rs. 40-12, necessitating payment of a lower price to the cultivators. The steady fall in the consumption of ganja has been mainly due to the low purchasing power of consumers and increased cultivation of the drug in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. The society nevertheless built up a substantial reserve fund and continued to maintain various local charities.

**Irrigation and Drainage societies.**

296. The number of these societies fell from 937 to 935 and their membership from 22,907 to 22,864. The total irrigable area served by them was 148,247 bighas as against 156,781 bighas in the previous year. Of these societies, 919 were tank irrigation societies, and except a few all of them were in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura and Burdwan. The societies in Birbhum and Bankura were generally successful, and there was a considerable demand for their extension in these two districts. The utility of most of the societies in the Burdwan district ceased with the opening of the Damodar and Eden irrigation canals by the Irrigation Department. Of the stream schemes in the district of Bankura, the Salbund weir with an irrigable area of 2,000 acres was taken over by the Irrigation Department, and the Amjore weir is now maintained by Government. The Kukrajore scheme was a failure, but the Chamkura Jarisha project did much useful work. In the district of Khulna, the Malik Proja Bandhu Jalsarabaraha Society, and in Birbhum the Dadpur, Douki and Bahara societies, did good work.

**Agricultural Associations.**

297. The number of these associations rose from 37 to 40; and the Bengal Home Crofters' Association continued to do useful work. The Lalgarh Krishi Samiti in the district of Midnapore, which installed a sugarcane crushing machine at a cost of Rs. 6,000, suffered a loss, as the factory worked for only 3 months during the year. The Naogaon Agricultural Association also worked its sugar factory at a loss. Some of the agricultural associations distributed to their members seeds of subsidiary crops such as hemp, groundnut, linseed, etc., and provided relief from the distress caused by the failure of jute and paddy. The steps taken in this direction in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district and the area under the Raipura Central Bank in the district of Dacca are worth mentioning.

**Production and Sale societies.**

298. There was a further fall in the number of milk societies from 264 to 247 during the year. The primary societies affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Societies Union supplied milk valued at Rs. 2,05,378 as against Rs. 1,49,928 in the preceding year, and the profit earned rose from Rs. 5,785 to Rs. 6,868. The Milk Societies in Khulna ceased to function. The Uttarpara Milk Society in the Burdwan Division worked at a profit, but 4 societies in the Khamargachhi group in the district of Hooghly were mismanaged. The low price of milk resulted in unsatisfactory working in the Milk Societies in Dacca and Chittagong. The Malda Sugar Mill started work during the year and earned a profit of Rs. 833, after meeting heavy expenditure in plant and machinery. Of its members, 65 per cent. grew sugarcane and sold their produce to the factory.

Cattle breeding societies.

299. There were 6 cattle breeding societies, which were in a moribund condition. All attempts at impressing on the members the benefit of improving the existing breeds of cattle failed; and as it was beyond the means of these societies to feed and keep stud bulls in proper condition, they are being dissolved.

Non-agricultural Credit.

300. The number of non-agricultural credit societies rose slightly from 531 to 532, their membership from 202,163 to 211,012 and their working capital from Rs. 401 lakhs to Rs. 443 lakhs. The paid up share capital also increased from Rs. 82·94 lakhs to Rs. 90·95 lakhs and their statutory reserve fund from Rs. 26·19 lakhs to Rs. 28·89 lakhs. Other funds created out of profits also amounted to Rs. 10·17 lakhs. Loans amounting to Rs. 263 lakhs were issued to members, as against Rs. 291 lakhs of the last year, and Rs. 228 lakhs was recovered against Rs. 229 lakhs in the previous year. The overdues at the end of the year were Rs. 48·63 lakhs or 12·7 per cent., as against Rs. 44·75 lakhs or 12·6 per cent. of the last year. The total profit earned by these societies rose slightly from Rs. 11·66 lakhs to Rs. 11·69 lakhs. In respect of efficient management and steady progress the Calcutta Urban Banks and those in the Chittagong group held the lead. The assistance rendered by these societies in providing easy credit facilities and encouraging thrift amongst wage-earners, traders and other persons of limited means has been very considerable, and some of the important banks have actively helped in popularising instruments of credit and financing small industrialists and cottage workers. Party faction unfortunately has been assuming prominence in some of the big banks in recent years.

Stores and Supplies societies.

301. The number of these societies fell further from 53 to 43 and their membership from 9,202 to 5,208. The total sale also decreased from Rs. 3·39 lakhs to Rs. 2·61 lakhs, but the total profit increased from Rs. 1,703 to Rs. 2,196. The Bagerhat Trading Society in the district of Khulna did good business and created a good name, and the Railway Stores at Kanchrapara steadily improved. In the Burdwan Division the United Trading Co-operative Society worked well and was popular, although it earned less profit owing to the heavy cost of management. The other stores in the division were in a bad way. The Sarda Police Training College Store in the Rajshahi Division did good work; but generally the position of small co-operative stores was not encouraging.

Artisan Societies

302. These societies worked at a loss, and in view of trade depression and competition with foreign products, there was very little hope of rehabilitating them. The existing societies were mostly working on a credit basis.

Fishermen's Societies.

303. The number of these societies remained stationary, but their membership fell from 3,970 to 3,846. In the Presidency Division the Captain Bhery Society, Limited, did better business than in the previous year and earned a profit of Rs. 1,502, against Rs. 494 of the last year. The Bidyadhari Spill Society earned a profit of Rs. 3,026 against a loss of Rs. 12,298 in the previous year, after meeting the heavy cost of management amounting to Rs. 24,987, of which Rs. 12,500 represents Government revenue. Heavy expenses had to be incurred in receiving possession and reclaiming and improving the fishery. The Naliapur Fishery Society in the Burdwan Division continued to work well, and the Dhaleswari-Meghna-Padma Society in the Chittagong Division also worked at a profit, but its activities were not sufficient to create any particular local impression.

Weavers' Societies.

304. The weavers societies fell in number this year from 330 to 325, but their membership increased from 5,887 to 5,908. The Bagerhat Weaving Union maintained steady progress against competition and trade depression, and earned a small profit. The weavers' societies in the Burdwan Division sustained a loss and their financial condition was generally unsatisfactory as a result of competition with mill-made products. Acute distress prevailed particularly among the weavers of the Bankura district, and it was proposed to give them relief by providing work and paying them wages from funds allotted by Government. There was no actual improvement in the working of the weavers' societies in the Dacca Division, and those in the Rajshahi Division worked on a credit basis. In the Chittagong Division only the Mainamati Tantubai Samiti worked at a small profit, and other societies practically suspended operations or worked on a credit basis. The grant made by the Government of India for the improvement of the handloom industry was not actually available during the year, but the scheme approved by Government was awaiting operation.

Silk Industries.

305. The number of these societies remained at 77, but their working capital fell from Rs. 91,913 to Rs. 91,764. The profits, however, rose slightly from Rs. 295 to Rs. 475. The Jangipur Industrial Association worked steadily, but could not show much progress, though it gave promise of development. The societies in the Burdwan and Rajshahi divisions continued to deteriorate owing to the fall in the price of silk due to foreign competition.

Zamindari Societies.

306. There was no increase in the number of these societies. In the Presidency Division the Bengal Young Men's Zamindary Society continued to pursue its policy of reducing its outside liabilities and strengthening its internal capital. The Society

proposed to open an Institution for training young men in practical agriculture and industrial work. The Tamluk Society in the Burdwan Division earned a profit of Rs. 1,227 in spite of the low price of paddy. Two colonisation societies were started in the Chittagong Division, making a total of 3. The Badarkhali Block No. I society found it difficult to repay its loan according to stipulation to the Zilla Krishi Samity, on account of the low price of paddy and the high rate of interest charged by the financing bank. An attempt was, however, being made to induce the financing bank to reduce the rate of interest, and to move Government to fix progressive rates of rent, and extend the period of free occupation for two years more. Altogether 39 families have been settled in Block I area. The Block II Society was registered during the year, and some 77 families with 10 acres of land each were settled in this area. The financial position of Block II Society was more satisfactory, and it is expected that it will not find much difficulty in redeeming its outside debts. Preliminary arrangements for reclaiming Block III, comprising 1,600 acres, and for raising embankments were taken in hand.

**Antimalarial and Public Health societies.**

307. The number of these societies fell during the year from 940 to 931, though their membership rose slightly from 18,268 to 18,281. Many of these societies worked indifferently, due to paucity of funds, but where properly worked they were successful in combating malaria and in effecting an improvement in the general health of the areas which they served, by clearing jungles and eradicating water hyacinth. These societies, which were being run on small contributions from members, languished for want of adequate capital.

**Women's Organisations.**

308. No new organisation of this kind was registered during the year, the total number being 8 as in the previous year. The Tala Mahila Samiti and Nari Samabaya Mandir at Calcutta and the Harinagar Mahila Samiti in the Ghatal subdivision of the district of Midnapore did good work.

**Relief Societies.**

309. The number of relief societies further increased from 48 to 52 and the membership and the working capital from 16,173 and Rs. 4,30,560 to 16,767 and Rs. 5,38,499, respectively. The demand for these societies grew steadily, and they assisted considerably in promoting thrift and mutual aid among their members. Their working was satisfactory.

310. The total number of these societies at the end of the year was 23, as against 19 of the last year. The Birnagar Rural Reconstruction Society in the district of Nadia was registered during the year at the instance of late Rai Nagendra Nath Banerjee Bahadur,

Public Prosecutor, 24-Parganas, with the object of imparting vocational training in agriculture and small industries to young men of the middle class. The Society made a very good start and secured a Government grant of Rs. 400, but its activities received a severe set back by reason of the death of the Rai Bahadur. The societies under the Sriniketan of Viswabharati in the Bolpur group, besides giving efficient medical help, contributed largely to the moral and material improvement of their members, along with the sanitary improvement of the locality. In the Rajshahi Division, the Bogra Medical Society did useful work. This society treats both indoor and outdoor patients and runs a medical school on a small scale for educating pupils in household medicines. The Brahmanbaria Rural Reconstruction Society carried on a determined campaign against water hyacinth throughout the year; and every encouragement is being given by the Department for the multiplication of this type of society.

**House Building societies.**

311. The number of these societies remained the same as in the previous year. The Calcutta Suburban Colony built 32 houses and was constructing 12 more. Several roads were opened and lighted with electricity, and various works of public utility, including a High School, were started and maintained at the cost of the society. The Darjeeling Housing Society worked at a profit during the year. The members of the Dacca Housing Society defaulted in the payment of the instalment of their loan. The Char Fassoon Society in the district of Bakarganj worked fairly well, but the work of the smaller societies in the same area was not satisfactory.

**Bengal Co-operative Insurance Society.**

312. This Society worked well after its reconstitution. The volume of its business increased by nearly 25 per cent., and it has accumulated a surplus of Rs. 6,048 against Rs. 4,191 of last year. The policy holders' fund increased from Rs. 12,863 to Rs. 22,815, and the benefits of the society were gradually being appreciated by the middle and poor classes, both within and without the movement.

**Central Co-operative Anti-malarial Society.**

313. On the year's working, the society sustained a loss of Rs. 1,390. The number of affiliated societies increased from 930 to 942. The society continued to carry on propaganda in favour of effective measures against preventible diseases on the basis of self-help, and contributed towards the focussing of public opinion on the necessity of opening out numerous important waterways at present dried or silted up.

**Producers' Unions.**

314. The number of these unions was 14 in the last year, and excepting a few the majority did not do well, due to trade depression. An attempt is, however, being made to improve the working of the Industrial Union by providing expert advice and improved machinery with the help of the Government of India subsidy.

Central Banks.

315. The number of Central Banks stood at 118 as in the previous year. There was a further diminution of affiliated societies from 20,054 to 19,937 and of the working capital from Rs. 519·14 lakhs to Rs. 517·45 lakhs. The paid up share capital also declined from Rs. 53·59 lakhs to Rs. 53·33 lakhs. The reserve fund, however, rose from Rs. 45·65 lakhs to Rs. 50·73 lakhs, of which Rs. 26·44 lakhs represented the statutory reserve and Rs. 24·29 lakhs comprised other common funds created out of profits. The total amount of owned capital was 20·1 per cent. of the total working capital, as against 19·1 per cent. of the previous year. Deposits from individuals and other sources further declined from Rs. 289·95 lakhs to Rs. 282·83 lakhs, while loans from the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank and other banks amounted to Rs. 122·71 lakhs as against Rs. 122·57 lakhs of the last year. There was a sharp decline in the amount of loans issued to affiliated societies, from Rs. 79·43 lakhs to Rs. 53·65 lakhs. Repayment by societies came down from Rs. 87·72 lakhs to Rs. 62·92 lakhs, i.e., by 16 per cent. of the outstanding amount at the beginning of the year, as against 22·2 per cent. in the preceding year. The total profits, however, appreciated from Rs. 7·31 lakhs to Rs. 7·72 lakhs, and the cost of management was reduced slightly from Rs. 6·88 lakhs to Rs. 6·83 lakhs.

Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited.

316. There was no increase in the number of members, which stood at 156 as in last year. The working capital fell slightly from Rs. 227·88 lakhs to Rs. 227·42 lakhs and the paid up share capital from Rs. 16·91 lakhs to Rs. 16·68 lakhs. The reserve fund was further strengthened by Rs. 21,000, making up a total of Rs. 4·21 lakhs, and the special reserve fund was increased from Rs. 9·57 lakhs to Rs. 11·21 lakhs. Deposits from members and others fell slightly from Rs. 196·88 lakhs to Rs. 194·79 lakhs. The amount of loans issued and recovered was Rs. 20·3 lakhs and Rs. 19·21 lakhs, respectively, as against Rs. 60·04 lakhs and Rs. 56·45 lakhs of last year. As in previous years, the bank maintained adequate fluid cover and had sufficient surplus to keep down the rate of interest on deposits. It did not therefore draw upon the cash credit of Rs. 30 lakhs granted by the Imperial Bank of India during the year.

Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.

317. The number of societies affiliated to this society increased from 18,762 to 18,792, and the society continued to carry on propaganda and publicity work during the year. Three radio talks were broadcast by the Assistant Secretary from the Central transmission station, and lectures on matters of general co-operative interest were delivered by the publicity staff. The society also participated in various exhibitions in the Province, and continued to publish two periodicals, one in English and another in Bengali.

# CHAPTER IX.

## Public Works and Irrigation.

### Public Works.

**New appointments.**

318. During the year under review, Mr. A. J. King, O.B.E., officiating Superintending Engineer, was appointed as Special Officer for Road Development projects, and Mr. J. Chambers, Executive Engineer, was posted to special duty as Bridge Designer to the Government of Bengal. These appointments were made in connection with the utilization of the Provincial allotment from the Road Development Fund. As a result of the damage done in Darjeeling by the earthquake of January 1934, a temporary subdivision, the Government House Construction Subdivision, was created with effect from 1st November 1934.

**Communications.**

319. The total expenditure on communications during the year was Rs. 24,20,637 of which Rs. 1,29,017 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications. The total length of metalled roads in the Province (including Sikkim) rose from 3,612 to 3,642 miles and the length of unmetalled roads from 48,808 to 53,930 miles. These figures include 2,684 miles of metalled and 53,235 miles of unmetalled roads maintained from district and local funds, but exclude roads maintained by Municipalities.

**Original work.**

320. During the year under review work was completed on the Road Development Fund projects for the diversion of the Grand Trunk Road between the 56th mile 3rd quarter and 57th mile 3rd quarter near Memari Bazar, for the reconstruction of the Grand Trunk Road in French Chandernagore, for the reconstruction of the Calcutta-Jessore Road from Calcutta to Baraset, for the improvement of the Ghoshpara Road, and for the improvement of the Diamond Harbour Road. The Provincial Communications Schemes for the construction of an approach road to the Willingdon Bridge at Bally from Barrackpur Trunk Road to Hastie Road, and for the construction of four gradient approaches to the Willingdon Bridge at Bally, were also completed. Work on the Road Development Fund projects for the reconstruction of the Pabna-Ishurdi Road, for the reconstruction of a portion of the Grand Trunk Road from Golabari Road junction to Haroganj

Road, for the reconstruction of the Burdwan-Arambagh Road from the south bank of the Damodar river to the 10th mile post, for the reconstruction of the Illambazar-Suri Road, and for the diversion of the Grand Trunk Road from the 2nd quarter of 27th mile to the 3rd quarter of 29th mile, was in progress during the year; while the Provincial Communications Scheme for the construction of a reinforced concrete arched bridge over the Sevoke river at Sevoke in the 12th mile of the Siliguri-Sevoke Road in the district of Darjeeling continued to make headway.

Repairs and maintenance.

321. Special repairs to the Buri Balasun bridge in the 7th mile of the Matigara-Naxalbari Road were in progress. Special repairs to other roads in the Northern Circle were practically completed. Maintenance and surface painting of certain roads were also carried out during the year, and some of the roads in the Duars of the Jalpaiguri district were lined with trees. The rest house at Pedong in the district of Darjeeling, the camping grounds at Siliguri, Kurseong, Sonada and Dinajpur, and the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles' buildings at Kurseong, Jalpaiguri, Mal and Kalchini, continued to be maintained by the Department during the year under review.

Buildings. revenue and expenditure.

322. The revenue realised during the year in connection with buildings amounted to Rs. 7·55 lakhs, of which Rs. 6·14 lakhs were Provincial. The expenditure including communications (Rs. 24·21 lakhs) totalled Rs. 92·63 lakhs, including about Rs. 18·70 lakhs for establishment, tools and plant. Of this total, Rs. 6·62 lakhs were for Central Works, Rs. 10·18 lakhs for Provincial works (Reserved) and Rs. 44·21 lakhs for Provincial works (Transferred). Rs. ·87 lakhs were expended on contribution works, Rs. 11·12 lakhs on grant-in-aid and Rs. ·92 lakhs on ·60—Civil Works not charged to revenue.

Central works buildings.

323. The work on the extension of the Electrical Laboratory at the Government Test House, Alipore, Calcutta, was completed during the year. No other work was in progress.

Provincial buildings.

324. Rs. 28·06 lakhs were spent under the head "Transferred" and Rs. 4·27 lakhs under "Reserved." Educational buildings accounted for Rs. 3·72 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration for Rs. 7·34 lakhs, and buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other Civil Works for Rs. 21·28 lakhs. Of the several works completed, the most important were the following:—

Certain additional works in the Jail at Mymensingh; construction of four temporary military camps in the district of Chittagong; converting the existing Lady Duffering Indoor Ward

into a Labour Ward in the Mitford Hospital, Dacca; construction of a barrack for the treasury guards at Thakurgaon; dismantling the old building of the Victoria Hospital, erecting Medical Officer's quarters and other buildings, and improving the site of the old Victoria Hospital buildings at Darjeeling; certain additions to, and alterations in, premises No. 2, Bankshall Street, Calcutta for the accommodation of all the Police courts of both North and South Divisions; certain improvements to the workshed in wards Nos. 3 and 4 in the Central Jail at Midnapore; certain improvements to the Detention Camp at Hijli for the accommodation of 60 additional detenus; and certain improvements to the water-supply arrangements in the Detention Camp at Berhampore.

**Maijdi.**

325. In consequence of the decision of Government to remove the headquarters of the Noakhali district to Maijdi, the construction of temporary buildings at Maijdi was proceeded with. The total estimated cost of the projects under construction amounted approximately to Rs. 3,40,000, and a total sum of Rs. 1,51,711 was spent during the year under report. The principal work done at Maijdi in this connection during the year was the construction of temporary Civil Courts, a semi-permanent record-room for the Collector's Court, hospital buildings for the Police lines, Collectorate buildings, Reserve Police lines, a semi-permanent record-room for the Registration office, and Jail buildings.

**Government House, Darjeeling.**

326. The most important of the works in progress was that on New Government House, Darjeeling, to replace the building damaged by the earthquake in the previous year. The new building was designed by the Assistant Architect, Mr. Edmondson, in consultation with Mr. Chambers, who did the reinforced concrete structural design. The building is designed to be earthquake proof, and in order that it might be ready for occupation in April, 1936, it was necessary for all concerned to work at very high pressure.

**Other works.**

327. Other important works in progress during the year were:—construction of Police Hospital buildings at Comilla; remodelling and certain improvements to the drainage of the Cantonment and Peelkhana area at Dacca; constructing a building for the Partition office at Dacca; protecting the west bank of the Rangamati peninsula from rain water cut; constructing a settlement office with peons' shed at Dinajpur; re-constructing certain buildings and perimeter wall of the jail at Darjeeling, which collapsed in the earthquake; re-constructing the Government High School building and Head Master's quarters at Darjeeling, which were damaged by the earthquake; constructing the Beliaghata Police Section House, Calcutta; improving the existing sewage disposal arrangement in the Reserve Police Lines at Sibpore; the

re-construction of the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Darjeeling; and the construction of a double storied Police barrack below the Victoria Hospital at Darjeeling.

Consulting architect to the Government of Bengal.

328. On account of the heavy pressure of urgent work in connection with rebuilding of New Government House, Darjeeling, it was impossible to cope with the work of this office with the existing permanent staff. Government sanctioned five temporary draftsmen, who were recruited, one from April 1934, two from September 1934 and two from January 1935. The pressure of work was so great that the staff were fully employed working seven days per week, and it is pleasant to be able to record the very great interest, help and willingness shewn by the whole of the staff of this office in pushing forward the very urgent work in hand during the year.

Government House, Darjeeling.

329. The main building work on New Government House, Darjeeling, was started in November 1934. Sketch plans for various alternative schemes were prepared, and one of these was finally approved. Working drawings were immediately commenced, and by the end of the year about 150 of these had been prepared. The project was somewhat unusual, in that the type of construction was new to the Department, and also because the plan was specially designed to withstand earthquake shocks as far as possible. The main building consists of two stories, covering a square of approximately one hundred feet and surmounted by a third storey in the form of a cross on plan, the whole being surmounted by a drum carrying a 30 feet hemispherical dome, giving a total height of approximately 62 feet above ground level. Work done by this office in the same connection included several schemes for revised layout and relevelling of the compound, and plans for rebuilding the top floor of the Kitchen Wing.

Other plans and drawings.

330. During the year plans and drawings were also prepared for Casualty, Out-Patients and Childrens' Wards at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta; for a Bus Passenger Shelter in Chowringhee; for the treatment of the Central portion of the Sevoke bridge parapet in Darjeeling district; for approaches to the Rangram bridge, Murshidabad; for Sub-Assistant Surgeons' quarters at the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Calcutta; for a village Dispensary; for a school gymnasium; for the layout of the new civil station at Maijdi; for a Partition Office at Dacca; for alterations to No. 2, Bankshall Street and Writers Buildings, Calcutta; for the Dhopaghata bridge, Jessore; and for a new Customs House in Calcutta. A considerable amount of time was also expended in scrutinizing plans and giving advice in connection with proposed alterations and additions to building works for which no drawings were actually prepared in this office.

**Railway administration.**

331. The following light railways are under the control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by Provincial Legislation :—

| | Gauge. | Length in mile. |
|---|---|---|
| (1) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway .. .. .. | 2′ 0″ | 51·07 |
| (2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarakeswar to Tribeni) | 2′ 6″ | 33·27 |
| (3) Howrah-Amta Railway .. .. .. | 2′ 0″ | 43·87 |
| (4) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway .. .. | 2′ 0″ | 19·75 |
| (5) Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway .. .. | 2′ 6″ | 52·24 |
| | | 200·20 |

All other railways in this Province are under the direct control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board).

**Surveys and constructions.**

332. During the year, no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), and no new construction was made, so far as Bengal is concerned.

**Lines opened.**

333. The Jessore-Jhenida Railway (36·75 miles), which had gone into liquidation, was reopened for passenger traffic during the year. The Calcutta Chord Railway line, except for the Willingdon Bridge at Bally, was not opened to passenger traffic during the year under review.

**Mileage.**

334. The total mileage of railways open to traffic on 31st March 1935, was the same as on 31st March 1934, viz., 3,499·30 miles.

## Irrigation.

**Capital account.**

335. The total capital expenditure of the department during the year 1934-35 was Rs. 2,48,024 after deducting receipts and recoveries on capital account amounting to Rs. 27,267, as against Rs. 9,12,019 in the previous year. The major portion of this capital outlay was on the Damodar Canal project, only about Rs. 9,000 being spent on the Bakreswar and the Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

**New projects.**

336. The Damodar irrigation canal was the only important new project under construction during the year under review. This project, which has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of paddy land in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, was commenced in 1926-27 and was nearing completion. The Revenue account was opened from 1st April 1933, and the canal

worked very well during the year, even though it was in an unfinished condition, irrigating about 85,081 acres of land and saving crops worth about Rs. 60,00,000 from utter destruction through severe drought. A model of the canal on a miniature scale, showing the actual irrigation and cross drainage works such as inlets, syphons, aqueducts, etc., was shown in the Burdwan Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of 1935; and a regular demonstration was given daily in order to impress the people with the value of irrigation. Samples of paddy grown both on the irrigated and non-irrigated areas were kept side by side, so that people might realise the actual benefit brought by the silt-laden red water of the Damodar river. The cultivators who took canal water at the proper time had an outturn of 16 and 17 maunds of paddy per bigha, whereas those who did not take any or took it at the last moment obtained paddy ranging from only 1 to 5 maunds per bigha in the same area.

Other schemes.

337. The Bakreswar Irrigation Canal in the district of Bankura, which was completed in 1933, has a commanded area of 10,000 acres, of which 7,760 acres were irrigated during the year as against 7,361 acres in the previous year. The leased area was irrigated very satisfactorily and produced a bumper crop, while in other areas not irrigated by the canal water there was either no crop or only a partial one. The newly constructed locks and sluices in the Lower Kumar river were operated during the year in accordance with a plan of working formulated by and conducted under the supervision of Mr. J. F. Russell, the then Executive Engineer of the Khulna Division. The experiment gave results which, though encouraging, were not however decisive. The construction of the Grand Trunk Canal to provide a shorter inland Steamer Route from Calcutta to East Bengal and Assam, which was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India in 1920, has been held in abeyance. A small capital expenditure of Rs. 8,990 was incurred as in previous years on the upkeep of buildings on the acquired land, on petty establishment, and on tools and plant. The expenditure incurred, however, was more than compensated for by receipt and recoveries on capital account amounting to Rs. 19,810.

Revenue account.

338. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to Rs. 26,19,766, of which Rs. 4,26,046 was spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore, the Bakreswar, the Damodar and the Eden Canals. The expenditure on the Midnapore Canal was Rs. 1,48,470, which included Rs. 44,578 for maintenance and repairs and Rs. 1,04,808 for overhead charges. The expenditure on the Bakreswar Canal

was Rs. 12,701, while that on the Damodar Canal and the Eden Canal totalled Rs. 2,52,120. The rest of the expenditure was on navigation, embankment and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for (1) upkeep of five suction dredgers, (2) maintenance of the Hijili Tidal Canal, (3) maintenance of existing steamer and boat routes from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam, including the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta Canals and Tolly's Nulla, to the cost of which the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation contributed in certain cases, and (4) conservancy of some of the principal navigable rivers of the province such as the Ganges, the Dhalleswari and the Buriganga. The expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Hijili Tidal Canal, the Sunderban Steamer Route and the Madaripur Bil Route was Rs. 6,27,712, Rs. 58,724, Rs. 54,000 and Rs. 2,26,053, respectively, as compared with Rs. 4,83,742, Rs. 74,696, Rs. 82,905 and Rs. 2,79,612 in 1933-34; while the cost of upkeep of the dredgers amounted to Rs. 80,432 as against Rs. 2,33,117 in the previous year. There was a marked decrease in the working expenses of the principal navigation canals, except the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, and the increased expenditure on the latter was due to the execution of some special repair works, such as strengthening the apron of the Chitpore lock, strengthening the banks of the Kristopur Canal, and replacing the two dwarf gates of the Chitpur lock. The total revenue receipts and working expenses of the Department during the year were Rs. 11,40,766 and Rs. 26,19,766, respectively, as against Rs. 12,99,423 and Rs. 27,85,699 in the previous year. Revenue from the Midnapore and the Hijili Tidal Canals considerably declined during the year, and this mainly accounts for a further fall in receipts. The area irrigated from the Midnapore Canal greatly diminished (only 10,491 acres being irrigated against 19,517 acres in the previous year), as none of the lapsed leases was renewed during the year owing to the heavy fall in the prices of agricultural produce and also to the fairly well-distributed rainfall. Moreover the economic condition of the raiyats in this tract gradually deteriorated, and their sustaining capacity was becoming more and more strained with the prolongation of the period of depression. The short realisation of revenue from the Hijili Tidal Canal was due to poor outturn of paddy crops in the Etamogra Subdivision owing to scarcity of rain and consequent decrease in export, and also to closure of the canal for silt-clearance and special repairs. The financial results of other navigation canals, however, were a little better and give rise to the hope that with the return of normal economic condition the very large deficits now noticed will be completely wiped off.

339. It was not possible to undertake any of the major schemes already administratively approved and, as stated in the previous reports, the policy of Government has still perforce been restricted to smaller schemes of local benefit. Schemes administratively approved.

340. The free flushing of malarious areas as a sanitary measure was continued and extended during the year. The places actually flushed in the Pingla and Narayanghar thanas of the Midnapore district covered an area of 4,705 acres. An additional area of 2,400 acres in the Panskura Police Station in the Kola-Panskura area was also taken up for flushing. The spleen index of the areas flushed appeared to have been reduced to some extent. Flushing operations.

341. The Department maintained about 1,293 miles of embankment during the year. The policy of gradually abandoning protective embankments where circumstances render it feasible was continued, and a proposal for the abandonment of the whole of the Chetua circuit embankment and the Darkeswar right embankment was under consideration. The total amount spent on maintenance of embankment and drainage works such as the Mograhat Drainage Works, Rajapur Drainage Work, etc., was Rs. 8,99,867 as against Rs. 11,42,862 in the previous year. Embankments.

342. The Department had also to deal with the protection of towns from river erosion, and although no new protective works were undertaken, the revetment constructed for the protection of Sirajganj was efficiently maintained and periodical observations were made of the erosion at Chandpur and Noakhali. Protective works.

343. The Department undertakes surveys and investigations with a view to examining the feasibility of working out schemes for irrigation and drainage purposes. It also conducts discharge observations and collects hydraulic data of all important rivers. During the year under review several surveys were continued from the previous year and several new surveys were undertaken. The most important of these were (1) a detailed survey of the Savankar Danra Project, (2) a detailed survey of the Darkeswar Reservoir Project, (3) a survey of the Ajoy Canal scheme, (4) a survey of the Messangore Reservoir Scheme, (5) discharge observations of important streams in the Bankura and Birbhum districts, and (6) a contour survey in connection with the More Reservoir project. The rainfall in Central and Northern Bengal was good and well distributed and consequently the condition of crops was good; but in many areas in West Bengal rainfall was far below the normal, and there was consequently a total failure of crops in those areas. In areas irrigated by canal water, however, the outturn was very good. There was no flood of importance in any Surveys and investigations.

of the rivers. The flood levels of the rivers Ganges and Bhagirathi in the year under review were higher than those of the previous year.

**Other works.**

344. In addition to the works already referred to, the Department was in charge of the construction and maintenance of the bridges over the Circular and New Cut Canals and Tolly's Nala in Calcutta; of the Sundarbans Steamer route, the Madaripur Bil route, and the Lower Kumar river; of the Amjore and Salbund weirs; of the maintenance of the Provincial portion of the Orissa Coast Canal; of the maintenance of the Nadia rivers, and the drainage works at Mograhat, Rajapur and Burrojola; of maintaining the drainage projects at Jaboona, Amta, Nowee-Sunthi and Arool Bil, as well as the works at Dankuni, Argowal, and Bullee Bil; of bandalling the Bhagirathi river, and dredging the Madhumati and Attrabanka rivers; and of protection works at Narayanganj and Sarda. The Joint Steamer Companies on behalf of the Department maintained the conservancy of the Ganges, from Rajmehal to Goalundo, and also the bandalling of the Dhalleswari and Buriganga rivers.

# CHAPTER X.

## Public Health and Medical Relief.

### Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1934.]

General health conditions.

345. The provincial birth-rate for 1934, as compared with that of the previous year (calculated according to the census of 1931), showed a decrease of ·68 per cent. The death rate also decreased by 1·7 per cent. Compared with the quinquennial average, both the birth and death rates of 1934 showed an increase of 7·7 per cent. The rate of natural increase was 5·7 per mille against 5·5 in 1933. As in the previous year, Bengal recorded the lowest birth rate, but her death rate was lower than that of all other provinces excepting Assam, Burma and the North-West Frontier. The districts of Calcutta, Bogra and Birbhum showed an excess of deaths over births. The infant mortality rate in 1934 was 189·2 per mille of births against 200·1 in the previous year. Compared with the main rate for the previous decennium, twenty districts showed an increase and seven districts a decrease in infant mortality. The general death rates from cholera, small-pox, fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injuries and other causes in 1934 as compared with those for 1933 are shown below:—

| | 1933. | 1934. |
|---|---|---|
| Cholera .. .. .. .. | 0·6 | 1·0 |
| Small-pox .. .. .. .. | 0·3 | 0·2 |
| Fevers .. .. .. .. | 16·3 | 15·3 |
| Dysentery and diarrhœa .. .. .. .. | 0·9 | 1·1 |
| Respiratory diseases .. .. .. .. | 1·6 | 1·7 |
| Injuries .. .. .. .. | 0·4 | 0·4 |
| Other causes .. .. .. .. | 3·8 | 3·8 |

Registration and verification of vital events.

346. During the year 1934, 745 persons were prosecuted in Bengal for not reporting births and deaths, of whom 552 were convicted. The system of registration and collection and transmission of vital statistics still continued to work unsatisfactorily. Experiments with an alternative system and with simple

forms were continued in the districts of Birbhum, Pabna and Bankura, with satisfactory results.

**Epidemic diseases: (a) Cholera.**

347. Cholera took a toll of 50,742 lives from Bengal in 1934, against 29,242 in 1933. The death rate from this disease thus showed an increase of 66·7 per cent., and 4·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality in 1934 was due to cholera, as against 2·4 per cent. in 1933. It was however 9·1 per cent. less than the average of the previous quinquennium. Compared with the previous decennium, the death rates from cholera were higher in July and December but lower in all other months, except in June and November, in which the annual rate was the same as that of the decennium. The districts of Faridpur, Bakarganj and Murshidabad suffered most from cholera, while among the towns, Dhulian was the worst sufferer. The total number of anti-cholera inoculations performed during the year was 2,106,269 against 1,036,643. In all 184,884 wells and 50,784 tanks were disinfected against cholera, in addition to 4,690 river ghats, 6,414 houses and 2,815 *dobas*. Inoculation of pilgrims and educative propaganda work was carried out as in the previous years, and departmental assistance was given to local bodies in anti-cholera work.

**(b) Small-pox.**

348. In 1934, 8,296 deaths in Bengal were due to small-pox against 15,426 deaths in 1933, yielding a death rate of ·2 per mille against ·3 in 1933 and ·3 the mean of the previous five years. Small-pox accounted for ·7 per cent. of the total provincial mortality in 1934, against 1·3 per cent. in 1933. The highest mortality rate from small-pox (3·2 per 100,000) occurred in April, and the lowest (0·2 per 100,000) in the period September to November. Calcutta with a death rate of ·9 per mille from small-pox was the worst sufferer, while Chittagong and Bakarganj were the least affected districts. The respective death rates from small-pox in towns and rural areas were ·4 and ·1 per mille, against 1·6 and ·2 in 1933, showing a decrease of 75 per cent. in towns and 50 per cent. in the rural areas. This phenomenal decrease in the urban mortality from small-pox was mainly due to the disease having been practically absent in 1934 in all the towns of Bengal excepting Calcutta, which alone was responsible for 71·7 per cent. of the total small-pox deaths in urban areas. During the year 4·5 per cent. of the total provincial small-pox mortality occurred among infants below one year, and 11·6 per cent. among children between one and ten years of age.

**Fevers.**

349. There were 764,492 deaths from fever in Bengal in 1934, with a death rate of 15·3 per mille, against 812,393 deaths with a death rate of 16·3 per mille in 1933. Fevers accounted for 64·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality, against 67·8 per cent.

in the previous year. Compared with the previous year, there was a general decrease in the death rate from all kinds of fevers.

Malaria.

350. Malaria claimed 387·191 victims with a death rate of 7·8 per mille in 1934, against 413,922 deaths with a death rate of 8·3 per mille in 1933. The number of deaths thus decreased by 36,731, with a corresponding fall of 6·4 per cent. in the malaria death rate. This disease accounted for 50·6 per cent. of the total fever mortality and 32·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Compared with the previous year, six districts showed increased and twenty districts decreased death rates, while Darjeeling recorded the same rate. The incidence was highest in Birbhum, although the death rates show the highest mortality in Rajshahi. The towns registered 2,815 and the rural areas 384,376 malaria deaths, with death rates of ·8 and 8·3 per mille respectively. Compared with 1933, the death rates both in towns and rural areas decreased respectively by 11·1 per cent. Forty-seven towns returned rates above the provincial average for malaria (·8 per mille), the most noticeable rates being those of Kotchandpur and Dhulian as in the previous year. During the year 8,589·1 lbs. of quinine was consumed against 13,329·4 lbs. in 1933. All the districts of Bengal showed a marked reduction in quinine consumption, but only three districts (Dacca, Tippera and Bakarganj) showed an increase in fever indices. The average quinine consumption per head of population was highest in Chittagong, as in the previous years. Ludlowii surveys in several places in and on the outskirts of Calcutta, and the experimental anti-malaria scheme with quinine and plasmochin in rural areas, were continued during 1934. The Sailihat anti-malaria scheme also continued during the year.

Kala-azar.

351. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·29 per mille, as against ·27 per mille in the previous year. Compared with 1933, the death rate in all Bengal towns decreased by 10 per cent. and in Calcutta by 10·5 per cent. In the rural areas, however, the death rate increased by 11·1 per cent. Among the towns, the highest mortality rate from kala-azar (1·7 per mille) was registered in Jessore. As in the previous year, 45 towns recorded no deaths from kala-azar. Kala-azar was responsible in 1934 for 1·9 per cent. of fever deaths and 1·2 per cent. of the total provincial mortality, against 1·6 and 1·1 per cent. respectively in 1933. During the year 121,142 kala-azar cases were treated at the kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in the province, against 129,539 and 105,840 during the preceding two years. The number of such cases increased in 15 districts and decreased in 12. The increase in the districts of Burdwan, Dacca, Dinajpur, Chittagong and Calcutta was phenomenal.

**Enteric fever measles, relapsing and other fevers.**

352. Compared with the previous year, the death rate from enteric fever in 1934 showed a decrease of 15·8 per cent. and that from measles also a decrease of 11·1 per cent. During the year 1·3 and ·5 per cent. of the provincial fever deaths and ·8 and ·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality were respectively due to enteric fever and measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever in 1934 numbered 2,720 against 5,173 in 1933. As in the previous year, no deaths from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. Other fevers accounted for 346,119 deaths with a death rate of 6·9 per mille in 1934, as against 364,327 deaths with a death rate of 7·3 per mille in 1933.

**Plague,**

353. In Bengal only one death from plague occurred, in the town of Howrah in April.

**Dysentery and diarrhoea.**

354. Dysentery accounted for 29,674 and diarrhœa for 24,273 deaths in 1934, making a total of 53,947 and yielding a death rate of 1·1 per mille, against a total of 46,697 deaths and a death rate of 0·9 per mille in 1933. These two diseases were responsible for 4·6 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. The death rate increased by 22·2 per cent. against the previous year rate and 37·5 per cent. against the last quinquennial average. The district of Darjeeling headed the mortality list followed by Howrah, while Jessore showed the fewest number of deaths. The provincial urban death rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was 2·2 per mille in 1934 against 1·9 in the previous year. In Calcutta and in rural areas it increased by 13·1 per cent. Among the towns, the highest death rates from these two diseases combined was returned from Ramjibanpur and Khirpai, while the lowest rate was recorded in Barrackpur in the 24-Parganas district.

**Respiratory diseases.**

355. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 85,113 deaths in 1934, showing an increase of 2,940 deaths or 5·9 per cent. over the previous year. Compared with the previous year, the death-rate from pneumonia rose from 45·43 to 48·18 per cent. of the total provincial mortality from respiratory diseases, whereas there was a reduction in the influenza mortality. As regards phthisis and other respiratory diseases, the mortality ratio was the same as in the previous year. In 1934 7·2 per cent. of the total provincial mortality was due to respiratory diseases. From 1923 pneumonia has been on the increase in Bengal. Its steady progress is noticeable and gives cause for anxiety. During 1934 pneumonia accounted for 41,006 deaths in Bengal, influenza for 4,124, phthisis for 14,845 and other respiratory diseases for 25,138.

**Injuries.**

356. Compared with the previous year, the total number of deaths from injuries increased in 1934 by 878, of which 412 was due to snake-bite and attacks of wild animals, 220 resulted from

rabies and 387 were suicides. There was, however, a reduction of 141 deaths resulting from wounds and accidents. Injuries accounted for 1·8 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Of the total deaths in urban areas (1,655), 692 or 41·8 per cent. occurred in Calcutta alone. The rural areas returned 20,389 deaths in 1934, against 19,580 in the previous year. During the year 192,252 deaths were registered in the province as having been due to "all other causes." Of these, 26,068 occurred in towns and 166,184 in rural areas.

General sanitation in the Ports: (a) Calcutta.

357. During the year 1934 the city and the port of Calcutta was free from plague infection, and no routine disinfection of clothing and bedding of the Asiatic and African crews and third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India was enforced. There were 8 deaths in hospitals among European seamen who arrived at this port, as compared with 5 deaths in the previous year. The total number of deaths among Asiatic seamen reported by the police was 208, of which 4 resulted from cholera, 11 from fever, 4 from heart-failure, 27 from drowning, 2 from burning, 17 from accidental falls, 1 from hanging, 3 from suicide and 139 from other causes. During 1934 six ships with infectious diseases on board arrived at this port and were disinfected by the Calcutta Port Health Department. Seventeen sea-going vessels, 19 inland steamers, flats and launches, and 21 lighters, *bhars* and *dinghis* were disinfected. Forty-one sea-going vessels were fumigated with the Clayton apparatus. Two samples of suspected ghee used as rations for lascar crews were examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, of which one was found to be genuine and the other highly adulterated. Of the 753 rats caught in the port and examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, none was found to have plague infection. In all 644 deck passengers of ships and about 100 persons of the floating population of the port were vaccinated.

(b) Port of Chittagong.

358. The general sanitation of the port of Chittagong was satisfactory. Only five cases of chicken-pox occurred amongst the crews of three steamers. The patients were removed to hospital, and necessary disinfection measures were taken. Sixteen European and 76 Asiatic seamen were treated in hospital during the year. There were altogether 3 deaths among the latter but none among the former. Two hundred and eight seamen were vaccinated and 9 ships were partially disinfected and fumigated.

Public Health Laboratories: (a) Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

359. During the year 4,966 samples of water (1,714 chemically and 3,252 bacteriologically), 1,039 samples of sewage (998 chemically and 41 bacteriologically, excluding 41 samples examined for ankylostoma ova and 12 trade samples) and 5,707

samples of food articles were examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory at Calcutta. About 18·4 per cent. of mustard oil, 47·9 per cent. of ghee, 67·8 per cent. of milk, 2·5 per cent. of *ata* and wheat flour, 7·1 per cent. of tea, 13·7 per cent. of *chhana*, 100 per cent. of *dahi* and 50 per cent. of butter samples from district boards, and 19·3 per cent. of mustard oil, 35·1 per cent. of ghee, 80 per cent. of milk, 6 per cent. of tea, 33·3 per cent. of *chhana*, 80 per cent. of *dahi* and 41·6 per cent. of butter samples from municipalities, were found adulterated. Since 1932, in comparison with other articles of food, an increasingly large number of mustard oil samples have been received for analysis at this laboratory. Except for mustard oil, adulteration of other articles of food has not undergone any appreciable reduction. A larger amount of analysis work has to be performed at the laboratory each year and sampling has been carried on perfunctorily. Speaking generally local bodies require to take more energetic steps for the proper administration of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act. Had they followed a definite sampling policy, and had deterrent punishment been meted out to offenders against the law, better results might well have been obtained without increasing the pressure of work at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

**(b) Dacca Branch Laboratory.**

360. During the year 1,702 samples of water (361 chemically and 1,341 bacteriologically), 343 samples of sewage and 4,216 samples of foodstuffs were examined at the Dacca Public Health Laboratory; and 57 per cent. of ghee, 48 per cent. of mustard oil, 76 per cent. of milk and 87 per cent. of *dahi* samples from district boards and 44 per cent. of ghee, 16 per cent. of mustard oil, 44 per cent. of milk, 100 per cent. of butter and 50 per cent. of *dahi* samples from municipalities were found adulterated. Local bodies paid undue attention to the analysis of mustard oil, whereas their proper course should have been to take more vigorous action in checking the adulteration of milk and milk products, which are the most important of all food articles.

**(c) Bengal Excise Laboratory.**

361. During 1934, 8,718 samples received from the Excise and the Police Departments were examined at the Bengal Excise Laboratory. Of these, 6,541 were of spirituous medicinal preparations, 56 of toilet preparations, 14 of country spirit and *pachwai tari*, 36 of brandy, beer, rum, gin, etc., 24 of water, 70 of instruments, 3 of salt, 528 distillery samples, 1,411 court case samples and 35 miscellaneous.

**(d) Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.**

362. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Laboratory in 1934 was 1,730,925 cubic centimetres. A balance of 889,225 cubic centimetres was in stock at the end of 1933. A total of 2,482,594 cubic centimetres of the

vaccine, of which 2,442,620 cubic centimetres was free and 39,974 cubic centimetres on payment, was issued by the Bengal Public Health Department during the year.

School hygiene.

363. One hundred and sixty-one schools were visited by 41 medical officers, who examined 17,283 boys and 319 girls. Thirty-four school building plans were examined by the Bengal Public Health Department. The rural sanitary inspectors also examined 147,599 pupils in 4,865 schools.

*Dai* training.

364. One hundred and four *dai* training classes were conducted in 1934, in which 1,215 pupil *dais* were trained by 106 qualified lecturers. A total of 759 certificates and 1,039 maternity outfits were awarded to trained *dais*.

Fairs and Festivals.

365. As in the previous year, no case of infectious disease was reported in 1934 from any fair in the Burdwan, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions. In the Presidency and Dacca Divisions four cases of cholera occurred in the Ganga Sagar *mela*, one case in the Kakdwip *mela* in the 24-Parganas district, and four cases in the four *melas* in the Dacca district. The biggest *melas* were the Ganga Sagar *mela* in the 24-Parganas district and the Nangalbundh *mela* in the Dacca district, which were attended by about 50,000 and 100,000 pilgrims respectively. Necessary medical and sanitary arrangements were made in each case.

Septic Tank Latrines.

366. In 1934 plans of 6 new septic tank latrines and of an activated sludge plant were approved, and 403 inspections were made. In all 1,039 samples of effluents were chemically and bacteriologically examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. The usual supply of departmental health posters, leaflets and literature was made for display in the mill areas, and necessary instructions for the removal of the nuisances noticed were issued.

Educational propaganda.

367. The twelve cinema parties under the Bengal Public Health Department carried on their health propaganda work in the province throughout the year, and held as many as 1,444 cinema shows and lectures, which were attended by approximately 1,805,355 people. The parties also attended about 20 health exhibitions in the mufassal, as well as the annual Calcutta Health Exhibition. One of the parties was kept attached to the Government touring exhibition van. A novel method of propaganda through radio was successfully tried. About 50,000 leaflets and 15,000 posters on public health subjects were distributed, and four additional new films on "Malaria," "Tuberculosis," "Calcutta Health Exhibition" and "The Medical College Centenary Celebration" were prepared during the year.

**Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.**

368. As in the previous year, 21 health officers and 99 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities outside Calcutta. All the district boards were also provided with fully qualified health officers. The Bengal rural public health organisation scheme worked satisfactorily in 25 districts. All the 575 health circles in the various districts worked as usual with trained sanitary inspectors and a few assistant health officers.

## Vaccination.

369. During the year 1934-35, 2,635,546 primary and 4,260,825 revaccinations with a total of 6,896,371 operations were performed, against 2,532, 230 primary and 4,107,104 revaccinations or an aggregate of 6,639,334 operations during the preceding year. In comparison with the previous year there was a total increase of 257,037 vaccinations. There was an increase in the number of children successfully vaccinated between the ages of one year and six years, but a slight fall occurred in the number of children successfully vaccinated under the age of one year, the proportion being 236·6 per mille against 255·8. A comparative reduction in the incidence of small-pox is responsible for the decrease of 507,944 operations during the recess period. The total number of operations performed was 6,144,000 in rural areas, 589,707 in municipalities and 162,664 in tea gardens, factories, steamers, railways and jails, against 5,878,807, 588,460 and 170,112, respectively, in the previous year. Operations by other agencies decreased by 39,925. The increased number of vaccinations in rural areas was principally contributed by the eleven districts of Mymensingh, Tippera, Noakhali, Bankura, Dacca, Faridpur, Rangpur, Howrah, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Pabna. The ratio of deaths from small-pox per mille of population was the lowest for the last eight years, being only ·13 in the whole province. The district of Rangpur with 869 deaths stood first in the list, and was followed by Calcutta (832), Pabna (779), Hooghly (605), Dacca (516), Howrah (375), 24-Parganas (357), Mymensingh (351), Midnapore (342), and Bogra (311). In other districts the number of deaths was below 300, the lowest number being recorded in Darjeeling. The total cost of vaccination in 1934-35 was Rs. 4,49,249-1 against 4,39,021-1-3 during the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 10,227-15-9 in the whole expenditure. A sum of Rs. 1,47,587-15 was paid from provincial revenues, Rs. 1,58,684-9-9 from district funds and Rs. 1,42,977-8-3 from the municipal funds. The total output of lymph at the Bengal Vaccine Institute was 3,177,788 grains against 4,190,558 grains during

the previous year. With a balance of 6,362,610 grains in hand the total issue of lymph to all bodies in Bengal was 3,587,396 grains. The total expenditure including overhead charges for supervision, etc., was Rs. 42,022-9-9 against Rs. 43,499-1-3 during the previous year. Lymph to the value of Rs. 8,713-11 was sold. The average cost of manufacture per dose of half a grain was only one pie.

## Sanitation.

370. The Board held five meetings during the year 1934, and considered sketch projects for:—(1) Asansol sewerage, (2) Nabadwip water-supply, (3) Hooghly-Chinsura waterworks extension, (4) Baranagore water-supply, and (5) Halisahar water-supply. These schemes were recommended to Government for administrative approval; and the Board also recommended for final sanction detailed projects for:—(1) Narayanganj (west bank) waterworks improvement, (2) Serampore water-supply extension, and (3) Burdwan waterworks improvement. The Board considered reports of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department in respect of 12 municipal sewerage and waterworks plants, and made certain recommendations thereon; and it further gave valuable advice on such matters as the menace to Calcutta from the Anopheles Ludlowii and the working of the plasmochin experiment in Burdwan district. Bengal Sanitary Board.

371. During the year the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department prepared sketch projects for water-supply at Dacca, Baranagore, Hooghly-Chinsura, Maijdi, Comilla, Rangpur, Krishnagar, Katwa and Bankura, and for sewerage and drainage at Burdwan, Nabadwip, Rishra-Konnagar, Uluberia-Chengail, Serampore, and Naxalbari. Detailed projects for water-supply at Bagerhat, Burdwan, Faridpur, Tamluk, Barisal and Mymensingh were also drawn up, and plans were made in respect of 22 other miscellaneous schemes. In the course of the year work was carried on at Narayanganj, Dacca, Narsinghdi, Bhatpara, Barisal, Jalpaiguri, Tittaghar, Asansol, Midnapore and Raniganj in connection with either water-supply or sewerage projects. The capital expenditure on waterworks and sewerage works during the year was Rs. 2¾ lakhs and Rs. 2¼ lakhs, respectively, but the inability of Government to make grants towards the capital cost of municipal schemes resulted in a lack of progress to a considerable degree. For this reason the action of certain municipalities in financing water-supply or drainage projects by means of loans from Government was particularly commendable; and Sanitary Engineering.

the growing recognition of the importance of well planned water-supply and sewerage schemes for the health of urban localities was indicated by the number and extent of the schemes which the Department was asked to draw up during the year. With the present increase in the population, the provision of adequate supplies of water constitutes a pressing problem for many municipalities. A partial solution in some cases is the attachment of house connection meters, to discourage waste and ensure that consumers pay according to the amount consumed; while an alternative method is the decentralized storage system, which has been found successful in areas where it has been adopted.

## Medical relief.

[Triennial report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal, during 1932-34.]

### Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Institutions.

372. During the triennium no new dispensary was opened nor was any of the existing ones closed, and the number remained at 44 as in the last triennium. In the indoor hospitals the total number of beds increased from 3,500 to 3,721, the increase being chiefly due to the addition of 100 beds in the Calcutta Medical School Hospital, 46 in the Chittaranjan Hospital, 30 in the Carmichael Medical College Hospital and 24 in the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Attendance and admission.

373. The total number of patients treated in the Calcutta Hospitals during the triennium was 2,741,455, viz., 860,540 in 1932, 917,962 in 1933 and 962,953 in 1934, showing a total increase of 544,245 patients as compared with the total number of patients treated during the last triennium, or an average increase of 18,145 in-patients annually. This is evidently indicative of the fact that hospitals are growing in popularity, and that more people are gradually resorting to hospital treatment. The death rate in the hospitals on the whole remained almost at the same level as in the preceding triennium viz., 10·39, 10·49, and 10·56, respectively, in 1932, 1933 and 1934, as compared with 11·09, 10·76 and 10·71 in 1929, 1930 and 1931, respectively. The total number of out-patients treated during the triennium was 2,551,819 against 2,037,680 during the preceding triennium, showing an increase of 514,139—the Medical College Hospitals having treated the largest number of out-patients as in the previous year,

374. The problem of nursing continues to be as acute as ever. The whole question of nursing in State institutions has recently been investigated by a Committee appointed for the purpose, and the report of the Committee is now before Government. Proposals for the training and employment of an adequate number of nurses in State institutions in Calcutta are under the consideration of Government. It is, however, feared that the adverse financial condition of the province may stand in the way of improvements in nursing, which are greatly needed. **Nursing.**

375. The total receipts of classes I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 1,04,17,788 during the triennium, against a total income of Rs. 98,37,251 during the preceding three years, showing an increase of Rs. 5,80,537. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 51,08,745 or 49·09 per cent. of the total receipts against 56·52 per cent. during the preceding triennium, and of this sum, Rs. 47,32,488 was spent on State institutions. Subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 10,51,253 or 9·95 per cent. against Rs. 5,79,589 during the previous triennium. The municipal contributions amounted to Rs. 13,52,837 or 12·99 per cent. against 11·76 per cent. during the previous triennium, and the local fund contributions amounted to Rs. 9,92,792 or 9·53 per cent. only. The total cost of maintenance of the Calcutta Hospitals, excluding investments, amounted to Rs. 95,27,170 during this period, as compared with Rs. 94,04,502 during the previous triennium, showing a total increase of Rs. 1,22,668, in spite of the expenditure being subjected to strict economy due to the prevailing financial stringency in the province. **Finance.**

## District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

376. During the triennium 98 new allopathic dispensaries were opened and 20 closed, and the total number of such institutions at the end of the triennium stood at 1,266, against 1,178 during the previous triennium. The number of homeopathic, ayurvedic and unani dispensaries stood at 65, 11 and 4, respectively, during the triennium. Besides these permanent institutions, there were a number of temporary dispensaries and medical centres, which rendered medical relief in the rural areas of several districts. Medical aid was also given to rural people assembled in *hats, melas* and fairs in several districts. The total number of indoor beds during the triennium rose from 5,751 to 6,000, of which 4,458 were available for men and 1,542 for women. **Institutions.**

Nursing.

377. The nursing arrangements in the mufassal hospitals continued to be as unsatisfactory as before, except in a few sadar hospitals and mission institutions. In most of the hospitals nursing was entrusted to female attendants, ward coolies, compounders and friends and relatives of patients. There is very little prospect of improvement until the local bodies which manage hospitals are in possession of increased resources. The Bengal Nurses Act, 1934, provides for setting up a nursing council as an *ad hoc* body for the control and training of nurses. The syllabus and course of training of nurses have also been revised.

Attendance.

378. Altogether 28,485,592 patients were treated in the area outside Calcutta during the three years, as compared with 26,003,466 during the preceding triennium. The number of indoor patients treated in the indoor wards of all classes of hospitals in the mufassal was 255,305 against a total of 238,946 during the previous triennium. The average death rate amongst in-patients remained almost at the same level, viz., 5·66 per cent. against 5·94 per cent. during the preceding triennium. The Dacca Mitford Hospital treated the largest number of in-patients as before. The total number of out-patients was 26,800,821 the corresponding figure for the previous triennium being 24,899,278.

Disease.

379. Malaria continued to account for the largest number of patients treated, viz., 9,123,748 against 7,196,318 during the previous triennium. The Public Health Department continued to supply quinine and cinchona febrifuge to mufassal dispensaries, while quinine was sold to the public through the post offices by the Jail Department. During the triennium the Public Health Department also distributed plasmochin in certain areas seriously infected with malaria. During the triennium 199,966 patients were treated for kala-azar, against 179,202 during the previous period. The number of cholera patients treated fell from 31,252 in the previous triennium to 17,833 during the triennium under report. Beri-beri accounted for 15,072 patients treated, as compared with 10,919 during the previous triennium; and tuberculosis of the lungs for 38,672 patients as against 34,233 during the preceding period. The figures for the individual years indicate a gradual annual increase in attendance and admission on account of tuberculosis.

Finance.

380. The actual receipts of classes I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 80,19,957 during these three years, against a total of Rs. 73,66,140 during the previous triennium, showing an increase of Rs. 6,53,817; and the total expenditure during the last three years was Rs. 74,79,917, as compared with Rs. 70,69,970

in the previous triennium. Of the total income, Government contributions formed 12·41 per cent. against 15·74 per cent. during the previous period, while municipal and local fund contribution formed 60·75 per cent. against 61·09 per cent., and subscriptions formed 11·07 per cent. as compared with 11·84 per cent. during the previous triennium.

## Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, Darjeeling, for the year 1934.]

General.

381. The Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, Darjeeling, were founded for the benefit of Europeans who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention required when overtaken by sickness or accidents.

Number of patients.

382. In the year 1934 the Sanitarium opened on the 23rd March and closed on the 15th November, while the Hospital attached to the Sanitarium remained opened throughout the year. The number of admissions to the Sanitarium and Hospital increased from 278 in 1933 to 333 in 1934. The number of patients admitted to the Hospital proper also increased from 73 to 91, of whom 78 were cured, 5 relieved, 2 discharged and 6 died. During the year under review the number of deaths in the Hospital was much higher than usual.

Finance.

383. There was a deficit of Rs. 1,152-3-4 on the year's working. The receipts from subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 1,575 as against Rs. 1,625 in 1933. No special grant from Government was required beyond the usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds.

## The Poisons Act.

384. In the Presidency (excluding Calcutta), 5,409 licences were renewed and 2,535 fresh licences issued, making a total of 7,944 against 5,452 current in the previous year, or an increase of 2,492 licences. In Calcutta 485 licences were renewed and 73 fresh licences issued, making a total of 558 against 546 licences current in the preceding year , or an increase of 12 licences. The increase in the number of licences renewed and in that of new licences

issued in the Presidency, other than Calcutta, was due to frequent inspection made by local officers in the districts, so as to ensure that no person dealt in scheduled poisons without taking out the required licence, unless otherwise exempted. During the year there were 37 prosecutions in the districts and 3 in Calcutta, against 48 and 6 in the preceding year. In the districts 14 cases ended in conviction and 7 were still pending, while in Calcutta 1 ended in conviction. Of the 18 cases of cattle poisoning reported during the year, as against 38 in the previous year, 11 ended in conviction.

# CHAPTER XI.

## Education.

Educational Institutions.

385. During the year under review the number of educational institutions decreased by 266. "Recognised" institutions fell in number from 70,338 to 70,241 and unrecognised schools from 1,588 to 1,419. There was an increase in the number of pupils attending recognised institutions from 2,899,541 to 3,010,845, though the number of pupils attending unrecognised institutions decreased from 67,171 to 64,427. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 432 lakhs, against Rs. 423 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows the rise and fall of expenditure under the different heads:—

| Year. | Provincial revenues. | District boards. | Municipal funds. | Fees. | Other sources. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1933-34 .. | 134·88 | 17·73 | 16·06 | 186·72 | 67·75 |
| 1934-35 .. | 136·19 | 18·36 | 15·67 | 192·75 | 69·41 |

University and Collegiate Education.

386. In Calcutta Sir Hasan Suhrawardy, KT., O.B.E., M.D., was on the 7th August 1934 succeeded as Vice-Chancellor of the University by Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Barrister-at-law, M.L.C.; and a sum of Rs. 10,000, bequeathed by the late Babu Ram Charan Mitra, C.I.E., to the Calcutta University for encouraging the development of Industrial Education in this country was thankfully accepted by the Syndicate of the University on the 14th November 1934. At Dacca Prof. G. H. Langley, M.A., I.E.S., retired from the Vice-Chancellorship of the University and was succeeded by Mr. A. F. Rahman, M.A., M.L.C.; and the executors of the Will of late Babu Jagamohan Pal offered to place a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs at the disposal of the University for the establishment of a Medical College to be named after the deceased. In the Calcutta University the number of university students (excluding under-graduate students in Commerce Classes) fell from 1,354 in 1933-34 to 975 in 1934-35. The number of women students also declined from 58 to 40. In the Dacca University however there was a slight increase in the number of students in the Arts and Science Classes, the total being 775, including 37

women students, against 769 in the previous year. There was on the other hand a considerable fall in the number of law students in the Dacca University. During the year under review the total number of Arts Colleges remained stationary at 51, of which 7 were exclusively for women. Of the 44 Arts Colleges for men, 10 were maintained by Government, and other 34 were privately managed, twenty Colleges receiving grants from Government. The roll strength of these colleges increased from 23,023 in 1933-34 to 24,403 in 1934-35. The total cost of maintaining the Government Arts Colleges during the year under report was Rs. 36,17,893, and a sum of Rs. 2,30,308 was disbursed by the Education Department in 1934-35 in grants to private colleges. The 10 per cent. cut in the maintenance grant to private colleges was however continued during the year. It was found possible to distribute Rs. 45,000 among non-Government Colleges for the improvement of libraries, laboratories and gymnasia on the recommendation of the Calcutta University.

Secondary education.

387. During the year under review there was an increase of 17,906 pupils in secondary schools and of 24 in the number of schools. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 33 and of maintaining a school was Rs. 4,972 during the year.

Primary education.

388. There were 45,588 primary schools for Indian boys in 1934-35, and on March 31st, 1935, 1,865,977 pupils (including 136,637 girls) were registered in them. In addition, primary classes in secondary schools had 212,102 pupils. There was a total increase of 104,803 pupils in the year under report, which may be considered satisfactory in view of the present economic depression. The percentage of boys under instruction in primary schools to the total number of boys of school-going age was 53·3 per cent. On the 31st March, 1935 there was 851,003 Hindu and 1,044,577 Muhammadan boys in the primary stage of instruction. The percentage of Hindu and Muhammadan boys to the total Hindu and Muhammadan male population were 7·5 and 7·3, respectively. The total cost of upkeep of the schools amounted to Rs. 65,26,878, of which Rs. 21,49,948 came from provincial revenues, Rs. 8,28,146 from district funds and Rs. 708,159 from municipal funds. The expenditure incurred by municipalities on primary education was smaller during the year under report than in the previous year. This was mainly the direct result of the closing of some free night primary schools in Calcutta, as it appeared there were legal difficulties in giving grants to such schools. During the year there was an increase of one in the number of panchayati union schools for boys (913 as against

912), and a grant of Rs. 137,863 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools for boys and girls. Further expansion of the scheme must necessarily be postponed on account of the increasing application of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930. No new primary schools under Mr. Biss' Scheme in urban areas could be established on account of financial stringency. On the 31st March 1935, there were in Calcutta 510 primary schools for Indian boys, attended by 40,252 pupils, of whom 23,985 were Hindus and 12,187 were Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining the primary schools in Calcutta amounted to Rs. 6,94,369. The Corporation of Calcutta initiated a scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education of all boys between the ages of 6 and 10 in Ward No. IX of the City; and in accordance with the optional scheme framed by Government under the Rural Primary Education Act of 1930, district school boards were inaugurated in the districts of Mymensingh, Chittagong, Pabna, Dinajpur, Noakhali, Bogra, Birbhum, Dacca, Nadia and Murshidabad. Other district boards also were reported to be contemplating the adoption of the optional scheme.

Training of male teachers.

389. The two training colleges for secondary school teachers maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca had altogether 173 students on the rolls on 31st March 1935, as against 151 students on 31st March 1934. The bulk of the students admitted to both colleges were teachers of aided schools and young men anxious to take up teaching as a profession. Out of 197 students who were sent up for the B. T. Examination in 1935, 130 were successful.

First grade training or Normal Schools.

390. On the 31st March 1935, there were 5 Normal (or first grade) Training Schools in the Presidency, attended by 391 pupils, as compared with 401 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 1,23,195, almost the whole of which was borne by provincial revenues. The schools passed 141 students out of 167 who sat for the final examination.

Guru and muallim training schools.

391. The guru and muallim training schools, which numbered 85, reported a total enrolment of 2,195 pupils. Of these schools, 79 were managed by Government and one by the Corporation of Calcutta, while the rest were maintained by Missionary Societies. Of the 2,298 candidates, who appeared in the final examination from these schools, 1,968 were successful. The total expenditure incurred for the upkeep of these schools was Rs. 3,48,152, of which Rs. 3,36,288 was met out of the provincial revenues.

Training for women teachers.

392. It was regrettable that the authorities of the Diocesan College had to close down their training department for women during the year under review; but the Scottish Church College agreed to open B. T. Classes for women with a grant-in-aid from Government. The training classes attached to the Scottish Church College and Loreto House had 59 girls under training on 31st March 1935. Out of 52 students who went up for the last B. T. Examination, 34 were successful. The number of training schools and classes which afford training facilities to women teachers employed in primary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools remained stationary at 10. Of these, 3 were directly managed by Government, and the rest by the Christian and Brahmo missions, as in the previous year. There were 271 pupils in these schools, as against 256 in the previous year.

Professional and technical education: Bengal Engineering College.

393. On the 31st March 1935, the Bengal Engineering College had 260 pupils on its rolls, as against 283 in the previous year. Forty-one students passed the B.E. Examination and the same number the I.E. Examination. Eight obtained diplomas in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and two passed the examination for Associateship in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. The average annual cost per student was Rs. 1,325, of which Rs. 1,102 was met from provincial revenues. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 1,304 and Rs. 1,086.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering.

394. On the 31st March 1935 the Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had 395 students on its rolls, against 409 in the preceding year. The school passed 84 students in the Overseer examination and 72 in the Sub-Overseer examination. The cost of upkeep of the school amounted to Rs. 1,36,469, of which Rs. 91,465 was provided from provincial revenues. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 1,28,652 and Rs. 84,580, respectively. The annual cost of educating a student was Rs. 342, of which Rs. 229 was met from provincial revenues. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 303 and Rs. 199, respectively.

Commercial Schools: Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

395. The number of commercial schools in the Presidency remained unchanged at 22. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, registered 441 pupils on 31st March 1935, against 396 pupils in the previous year. The school passed 77 students in the final course examination, against 82 in the previous year. In the Special Commercial Course Examination, 42 passed against 32 in the previous year. The cost of maintaining the institution amounted to Rs. 55,998 during the year under report, of which Rs. 27,457 was borne by provincial revenues. The corresponding

figures in the previous year were Rs. 58,877 and Rs. 31,015, respectively.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

396. The Government School of Art, Calcutta, had 281 students on 31st March 1935, an increase of one over the previous year's numbers. The cost of maintenance amounted in the year under report to Rs. 52,211 of which Rs. 38,384 was borne by Government. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 41,843 and Rs. 28,922, respectively.

Other Schools of Art.

397. Besides the Government School of Art, Calcutta, there were 4 other art schools in the Presidency, as in the previous year, of which three were located in Calcutta and one at Maheswarpasa in Khulna district. These schools had altogether 260 pupils on 31st March 1935, and the cost of their upkeep during the year was Rs. 31,845, of which Rs. 7,812 was provided from provincial revenues.

Education of Indian girls and women.

398. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls during the year under review fell from 19,427 to 19,217; but the number of arts colleges for women in the Presidency increased from 6 to 7, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 596 to 657. Three hundred and thirty-seven girls passed the I.A. and I.Sc. examinations, while 98 secured the Bachelor's Degree, against 279 and 119 in the previous year. As before, music continued to be taught in the Bethune College under the auspices of the Sangit Sangha. The number of high schools for Indian girls rose during the year under review from 44 to 54, and the number of girls reading in high schools also increased from 13,212 to 16,404. At the Matriculation Examination of 1935, 812 girls out of 1,523 were successful. The number of primary schools for girls stood at 18,703, with 511,853 pupils on their rolls during the year under report. Private agencies such as the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes, the Nari Siksha Samity and Missionary Societies continued to do good work in spreading education amongst women.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

399. As in the previous year, the number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians on 31st March 1935 was 67, of which three provided "Specialised" instruction, while 64 institutions (including 24 secondary, 19 higher grade, 20 primary and 1 ungraded schools) provided general education. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' and Dow Hill Girls' Schools at Kurseong for general education and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, for the training of school mistresses. The rest were controlled by religious and philanthropic societies and by railway authorities. The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European Schools was 11,853,

against 11,458 in the previous year. The non-European pupils reading in European schools numbered 2,667 during the year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children during the year under review was Rs. 37,63,235, as compared with Rs. 35,92,761; and the total expenditure on scholarships during the year was Rs. 28,383, as compared with Rs. 28,039 in the previous year. No European or Anglo-Indian male teacher was deputed during the year to the Chelmsford Training College in the Punjab; and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, remained the only institution for the training of European and Anglo-Indian Women teachers in the Presidency. There were 19 students on 31st March 1935, as compared with 17 on the corresponding date of the previous year. All the 9 candidates examined in the previous November passed the examination. The Children's House, Kurseong, which trains mentally and physically defective European children, registered 23 pupils on 31st March 1935, and stipends to the value of Rs. 2,520 were awarded during the year for the education and maintenance of the children in this House.

Muhammadan education.

400. During the year under review the number of Moslem pupils reading in all grades of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,541,342 to 1,598,675, of whom 1,215,775 were boys and 382,900 were girls, as compared with 1,131,780 Hindu boys and 295,296 Hindu girls on 31st March 1935. The proportion of Moslem students to the total number of pupils under instruction was 53·3 per cent. as against 51·9 per cent. in the previous year. In arts and professional colleges the proportion of Moslems to the total number of students under instruction was 13·7 per cent. and 11·03 per cent., respectively, as compared with 13·3 per cent. and 11·5 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. In the high and middle stage of instruction Moslem students constituted 21·4 per cent. and 24·1 per cent., respectively, of the pupils of all communities, as compared with 21·2 per cent. and 24·6 per cent. in the previous year. In the primary stage the proportion was 55·1 per cent. and in special schools 70·3 per cent. of the total number of students enrolled. During the year under review, the number of Islamic Intermediate Colleges remained unchanged at 3, 2 of which were maintained and 1 aided by Government. The total number of pupils reading in these colleges was 166. Of the 99 students who appeared at the Islamic Intermediate Examination in 1935, 73 were successful. At the close of the year there were 713 madrasahs in the province, with 498,076 pupils on their rolls. Of the total number of madrasahs, 583 were of the reformed type, the rest being of the old type. Four hundred ninety-five candidates sat for the High

Madrasah Examination, of whom 265 were successful; while in the Junior Madrasah Examination, 2,285 students passed out of 2,838 candidates. The number of maktabs or primary schools for Moslems fell from 26,743 to 26,649. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions was 965,987, of whom 675,778 were boys and 290,209 were girls. The number of Muhammadan girls reading in all classes of recognised institutions was 376,231; and of these 27 were in colleges, 253 were in the high stage, 479 in the middle stage, 373,741 were in the primary stage and 1,731 read in special schools. For the encouragement of Moslem education in the province, Government have provided the following facilities:—(*i*) reservation of places in favour of Moslem students in Government and Government aided schools, (*ii*) grants of special scholarships and stipends and free studentships to the extent of 15 per cent. of their own enrolment subject to a minimum (*iii*) higher grants to recognised *maktabs*.

**Oriental education.**

401. The Universities both at Calcutta and Dacca provided for instruction and facilities for research in higher Sanskrit and Islamic studies. Sanskrit studies were chiefly carried on in the indigenous tols, and Islamic studies in the madrasahs. The Bengal Sanskrit Association continued to control Sanskrit studies all over the province; while the East Bengal Saraswat Samaj conducted its own examinations in the Eastern Bengal districts.

**Education of the sons of chiefs and nobles.**

402. In Bengal there is no school set apart for the education of the sons of chiefs and nobles. There are however special arrangements in the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad for the education of boys of the Nizamat family. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction was 26 during the year under review. These boys lived in a separate hostel, the upkeep of which cost Government Rs. 5,521.

**Education of the children of the backward classes.**

403. During the year the backward communities made satisfactory progress in education in all directions. On the 31st March 1935, 388,462 boys and 83,073 girls belonging to these communities were under instruction in various types of schools and colleges. These figures show an appreciable increase over those on 31st March 1934, which were 384,308 boys and 77,845 girls. Schools for backward class children continued to be maintained for the most part by missionary societies and philanthropic bodies, such as the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes, the Bengal Social Service League, the Hindu Relief Society, the American Baptist Mission of Midnapore and the Wesleyan Mission of Bankura. Government gave grants-in-aid to these institutions and accorded special privileges to their pupils.

**Education of criminal classes.**

404. The Salvation Army maintains an industrial school at Nilphamari in the district of Rangpur, for the education of the

children of the Karwal Nuts, a criminal tribe. In this school the children are taught farming, gardening and weaving, as well as ordinary subjects of the primary curriculum. The school had on its rolls 33 boys and 36 girls on the 31st March 1935. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Alipore, had 222 inmates on 31st March 1935, against 201 inmates on the corresponding date in 1934. The upkeep of these institutions cost Government Rs. 48,184. The Borstal School at Bankura had 277 pupils on its rolls, against 188 in the previous year, and cost Government Rs. 21,638.

Education of defectives.

405. The Blind School at Behala had 63 boys and 20 girls during the year, against 60 boys and 19 girls in the previous year; and the total expenditure of the school was Rs. 30,932, of which Rs. 7,506 came from Provincial Revenues. The Deaf-and-Dumb School at Calcutta had 224 pupils, against 213 in the previous year; and the five deaf-and-dumb schools at Dacca, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chittagong and Rajshahi had a total roll strength of 94 pupils. Bodhana Niketan, a school for Indian defective children at Jhargram in the district of Midnapore, continued to do very valuable work, and had 15 pupils, including 4 girls. The Children's House, Kurseong, for defective European Children has already been referred to.

Tea garden schools.

406. In the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts there were 153 tea garden schools with 3,658 pupils during 1934-35, against 171 schools with 3,479 pupils. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 24,072 towards which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 10,747.

Education of factory and colliery children.

407. There were 6 primary schools in the district of 24-Parganas for the education of factory children; and for the children of Madrasi mill-hands there was a Telegu class attached to the aided primary school at Titaghur. The Rifle and Metal Factories at Ichapur maintained 2 primary schools. In the coal mine area of the Burdwan district there were 12 colliery primary schols specially meant for the education of mines' children; and some mills in the Hooghly district maintained or subsidised primary schools for the children of the mill-hands. Government contributed liberally towards the cost of all these schools. The Railway authorities at Khargpur maintained a primary school for the education of children of railway workshop labourers.

Cantonment schools.

408. In the Cantonment area of Barrackpore there were 9 schools with 870 pupils in 1934-35, against 10 schools with 773 pupils in 1933-34. On 31st March 1935 there were 3 primary schools one in Jalapahar and 2 in Lebong Cantonment areas. They had 130 pupils against 94 in the preceding year.

# CHAPTER XII.

## Trade and Industry.

### Industries Department.

General.

409. The chief features of the year under review were the comparative stability of low price levels and the absence of buoyancy in purchasing power. These conditions, which placed organised industries at a disadvantage, also proved a great handicap to industrial development. The continuation of the low price regime necessarily involved the reduction of costs of production and a competitive struggle for new markets.

Weaving Industry.

410. Although the field of its work was necessarily restricted owing to the limitations imposed by financial stringency, the Industries Department continued to do useful work towards the development of small and cottage industries, as well as the spread of technical and industrial education. The Department also pressed forward with its programme of research, the value of which as a means of making available to industrialists the up-to-date methods of manufacture, cannot be over-estimated. The handloom weaving industry, which is the largest and most important cottage industry in Bengal, occupied the attention of the Department to a large extent, and through its efforts the old throw shuttle type of handloom was replaced by the more productive modern type in practically every district in Bengal. It also succeeded in introducing improved dobbies and jacquards over a wide area of the province, and encouraged the establishment of a new industry in the manufacture of jacquard machine apparatus. In the Baranagore area there were four workshops engaged in the manufacture of jacquards, and about 2,900 jacquards produced in these factories were sold to the weavers of Bengal. A large number of young men trained in the weaving institutions maintained by the Department have established small improved handloom factories, using modern dyeing methods and ornamentation processes with success.

Demonstration parties.

411. The unemployment relief scheme under which 28 demonstration parties have been in operation for a little over two years has achieved a measure of success. It has been instrumental

in opening out avenues of useful empolyment to unemployed *bhadralok* youths, and numerous brass and bell-metal, cutlery, pottery, umbrella making, soap, shoe, jute and wool weaving industries have been brought into existence.

Industrial Survey.

412. The two Industrial Surveyors employed under the unemployment relief scheme were fully engaged in exploring avenues of marketing and in assisting small industrialists in the difficult task of finding a market for their products. The survey of cottage industries in Noakhali district was completed during the year under review, and that relating to Nadia district was in progress.

Silk industry.

413. The initiation of practical measures for arresting the further decline of the market for Bengal silk engaged the attention of the Marketing Investigator throughout the year, and he was sent to the silk districts and other places to study this problem. With the object of re-establishing markets for Bengal silk, the Murshidabad Silk Association was organised, with the principal merchants dealing in woven silk articles as its constituents.

Coir industry.

414. In the deltaic districts of Bengal there is an abundant supply of cocoanut, but very little economic use of this natural resource is being made at present. There are considerable possibilities of making a profitable use of the fibre, which is now mostly utilized as fuel, and an experimental coir-making and spinning demonstration party was established in the Calcutta Technical School for the purpose of working out the detailed processes of using coir yarn for woven and pile mat-making and other uses. The results so far achieved have been promising, and steps are being taken to send out demonstration parties in the deltaic districts for demonstration purposes.

Soap making and chemical research.

415. Special efforts were made during the year to advance the technique of soap making and to reduce the cost of manufacture. The results of research proved useful, not only to small workers but also to factories. Investigation of the conditions of manufacture of soft soap, which is used in various industries, was also undertaken with satisfactory results. Researches were also carried on in connection with other problems affecting varnishes, gloy paste, lesser known oil seeds, etc.; and minor technical problems requiring more or less practical experiment were also investigated in the Industrial Research Laboratory for the benefit of small industrialists.

Brass and Bell metal industry.

416. In the brass and bell-metal industry the manufacture of brass and German silver tea spoons by a process of sand moulding, and of brass dolls and images by a process of clay moulding, were standardised.

417. The introduction of a new kiln designed by the Department, and the evolution of new processes of glazing for ornamental pottery, proved beneficial to the pottery industry. Experiments were carried out in the laboratory on Majolica ware glazes, earthenware bodies for manufacturing "Chota hazri" sets and *Parian* bodies for manufacturing figures, etc., and the results obtained were expected to advance the development of the industry in fruitful channels. Pottery industry.

418. The manufactures of parasols, fancy umbrella handles and walking sticks were standardised. Umbrella industry.

419. Owing to the low prices of raw hides and skins, the small chrome tanneries in Calcutta producing low priced articles did a profitable business. The larger chrome tanneries sold their lower grade products in India and exported those of higher grades, chiefly to the United Kingdom. The beneficial effect of the Ottawa Agreement on this export trade, which was noticed in the preceding year's report, was manifest to an even greater extent during the year under review, and the export of Indian box sides was the outstanding feature of the Indian leather-trade during the year. An improvement in quality is the most pressing need of the tanning industry, and the researches into the various tanning processes carried out at the Bengal Tanning Institute resulted, not only in the improvement of the quality of leather, but also in the reduction of the cost of its production. One gratifying feature of the shoe industry in Bengal was the employment of an increasing number of Bengali *bhadralok* youths, amongst whom the young men trained at the Boot and Shoe Department of the Institute were fairly represented. Tanning industry.

## Manufacture and Mines.

420. The area under jute cultivation, including that in Cooch Behar and Tripura, was 2,186,100 acres during 1934-35, as against 2,168,700 acres in the previous year. The total outturn was 7,216,000 bales, as against 7,092,100 bales in the preceding year. There were 93 mills at work, as against 92 in the previous year; and the average number of operatives increased by 3,300 to 251,741. The two jute mills, reported as closed in 1933-34, remained closed in 1934-35. Jute.

421. Twenty cotton mills were at work during the year, employing on an average 25,437 operatives, as against 20,515 in 1933-34. The number of looms and spindles at work was 7,593 and 341,811, respectively, as against 6,192 and 302,367, respectively, in the previous year. Cotton.

Silk.

422. Two silk mills coming within the purview of the Factories Act and employing on an average 375 operatives daily were at work during the year. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 34,477 kahons, 16,970 kahons being raised by Government nurseries and 17,507 kahons by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar.

423. The area under sugar crops increased from 310,200 acres in 1933-34 to 329,600 in 1934-35. Eleven sugar mills were at work during the year, employing on an average 2,805 operatives daily. Of the two sugar grinding mills mentioned in last year's report, one closed down and the other did not work during the year.

Tea.

424. The area under tea in 1934 was 209,863 acres (including gardens in Tripura), as against 209,713 acres (revised) in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 100,702,500 lbs. as against 98,441,771 lbs. in 1933. There were 434 tea plantations employing on an average 194,658 permanent and 8,216 temporary hands daily. The number of tea factories coming within the purview of the Factories Act was 281, and the total daily average number of operatives employed was 16,112. This figure does not include persons employed outside the factory premises.

Paper.

425. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,579 persons daily. They produced 32,002 tons of paper valued at approximately Rs. 1,23,00,000.

Wool.

426. The Dacca Central Jail Woollen mill with 16 looms and 576 spindles was the only woollen mill at work during the year. It employed on an average 163 persons daily, and produced 115,896 lbs. of blankets valued at Rs. 76,057.

Saltpetre.

427. No licence was granted for the refinement of saltpetre during the year 1934-35.

Coal.

428. The number of mines in the Raniganj coalfield worked under the Indian Mines Act, 1923, during the year 1934 was 184 against 185 in the preceding year. The number of coal mines using electric power was 42 against 48 in the preceding year, and the number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 27 and 12,439, respectively, against 25 and 10,602 in 1933. The daily average number of persons employed in these mines during the year 1934 was 44,619, of whom 32,123 were employed underground, 171 in open workings and the remainder on the surface. The employment of women underground is being gradually curtailed, and during the year under report only 3,914

women were so employed. The number of persons killed in accidents was 52, of whom 3 were females, and the number of persons seriously injured was 115, including 12 women. The total output of coal in Bengal increased from 5,691,189 tons in 1933 to 6,159,486 tons, an increase of 8½ per cent. There was an all round increase in the average output of coal per person employed, and the improvement may be ascribed partly to the increased demand for coal and partly to the increased output from the extraction of coal in pillars. The supply of mining labour during the year was ample, and the weekly earnings of miners were higher than during 1933, owing to many of the mines working a greater number of days per week. The relations between employers of labour and workmen were, on the whole amicable; and the general health of the mining population was satisfactory. Although there was an increased demand for coal there was no improvement in the prices received for steam coal. Prices for slack coal, however, improved considerably; and the prices obtained for all grades of small coal were higher by as much as Re. 1 to Rs. 1-8 per ton. The increased demand for slack coal was due to the large demand for brick-burning purposes and for cement factories, due to activity in building operations in areas affected by the Bihar earthquake of January 1934. The increased activity in iron and steel works also played a part in the increased demand for coal and slack coal for coking purposes. During the year the Indian Coal Grading Board maintained its standard of good work; and the quality of coal exported was generally satisfactory. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee continued its vigorous propaganda for popularising soft coke as a domestic fuel, and as a result the demand for soft coke continued to increase. The research work for improving the methods of manufacture of soft coke entrusted to the Principal, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, progressed satisfactorily; and the prices of soft coke were well maintained.

## Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

429. No new features or changes were observed in the conditions of the existing industries in the districts of this Division except in Murshidabad, Jessore and 24-Parganas. At Mirzapur in the Jangipur subdivision of Murshidabad a number of weavers began to use the jacquard loom; and three small factories were started at Jessore to manufacture combs and other toilet requisites from celluloid. Owing to the extension of cultivation of sugarcane as a substitute crop for jute, there was some indication of the revival of the sugar industry at Kotechandpur, where several small factories were working, two of these being equipped with centrifugal machines. Three new sugar factories of a small type

—Presidency Division.

were also brought into existence at Arbelia, Baduria and Kolapola in the 24-Parganas district, and another factory of a bigger type was under construction at Basirhat. In the 24-Parganas district *chikan* or drawn thread embroidery work on handkerchiefs, garments and mosquito nets was being carried on; and the weaving and selling of napkins continued in parts of the Diamond Harbour subdivision.

Rajshahi Division.

430. In the Rajshahi Division four umbrella factories were started at Rajshahi, Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna by persons trained by the Demonstration Party of the Industries Department. A fine wool weaving factory was also opened in the Rajshahi district. Gunny cloth weaving formed a minor industry in the district of Dinajpur, and attempts were being made to revive the *endi* weaving industry of Jalpaiguri by the formation of a Committee. The *biri*-making industry spread all over the district of Bogra, and Messrs Latif and Co., conducted it on a large scale. A soap factory at Sultanganj, a jute weaving industry at Adamdighi and the rice mills at Hili, Jaipurhat and Talora continued to thrive. A few young men of the *bhadralok* class in Pabna district started umbrella-making, shoe making and the manufacture of bell-metal articles; and the hosiery industry did well, having received the advantages of the protective tariff. The weaving industry in the Serajganj subdivision on the other hand felt the effects of the depression acutely. The lac industry of Malda made some progress, but the silk industry was faced with formidable competition from Japanese and foreign silk, which was dumped at almost impossible prices and caused an abnormal fall in the price of local articles. The brass and bell-metal artisans of Nawabganj did well, but they would profit by training in improved methods of manufacture.

Burdwan Division.

431. The coal industry in the Asansol subdivision enjoyed an increased demand, chiefly on account of the increased requirements of the iron and steel industries and the need for reconstruction work in the Bihar earthquake areas. The price of slack coal improved, but the price of steam coal continued to fall on account of severe competition and consequent sacrifice of profits. The iron industry is next in importance in the Asansol area, and the East Indian Railway took up three important road and bridge projects within the subdivision. This work, together with the re-opening of the Kulti Blast Furnace and the operations of the Hirapore Steel Works, was expected to go a great way towards reviving the iron industry and providing employment for a number of people. In the district of Bankura industrial establishments decreased in number from 52 to 49 due to the closing of three rice mills. The chief industries were silk, cotton-weaving and brass and bell-metal utensil making, but these trades were on the decay; and

there was more or less general unemployment amongst the weavers in the district owing to the keen competition of foreign cloths. Other small industries such as tobacco, cultery and conch-shell bangle making were languishing for want of patronage. In the Ghatal subdivision of Midnapore brass and bell-metal industries showed a further decline on account of the lower prices of aluminium. The cloth industry of this subdivision was also declining on account of foreign competition. In some parts of Daspur thana combs were prepared on a small scale from the horns of buffaloes, and bangles were prepared from conch shells. Sixteen rice mills at Sadar and 43 at Arambagh in the district of Hooghly worked during the year. The chief industries of this district consisted of handloom weaving, shoe-making, chikan work, pot and wicker making, dyeing and rope-making, but they were generally in a moribund condition especially the chikan work at Babnaon and Haripal, which formerly flourished. In Howrah district a few handlooms were set up at Khatora in police-station Domjur for the manufacture of *durries* and *ashans* on a cottage industry scale.

Chittagong Division.

432. In the district of Chittagong soap-making, particularly for washing purposes, is an industry which is coming into prominence and soaps manufactured locally compared favourably both in cost and quality with those imported from outside. Several factories were started and a number of unemployed youths took up the industry. The manufacture of umbrella sticks, carried on extensively at Forehabad in the Hathazari police-station, continued to flourish. At Sreepur in Boalkhali police-station a brass and bell-metal industry was started; and some young men of the middle classes turned their attention to the tanning industry. The *saris* of Mainamati in the Sadar subdivision of Tippera had a fair local market, but an improvement in designs was badly needed. The manufacture of mosquito nets proved a profitable branch of handloom weaving. Of the other cottage industries in the Sadar subdivision, mention may be made of nib making, penholder making, basket-making and the manufacture of brass utensils. Handloom weaving was widespread in the Brahmanbaria subdivision of Tippera district, and the manufacture of bamboo and cane articles continued to be a speciality of this area. Umbrella handles were exported in enormous quantities. The brass and bell-metal industry fared well; and so did the local cutlery, pottery and hides and leather goods industries. The baling of jute for export was an important industry of the Chandpur subdivision of the same district, and provided employment for a large number of labourers. There were in Chandpur proper, a rice mill, an ice factory, an oil mill and a flour mill, each of

which carried on quite a brisk business. Iron almirahs, steel trunks, and suit-cases were also made at Chandpur Puran Bazar.

Dacca Division.

433. In the Sadar subdivision of Faridpur a soap factory was opened by a private individual. In the Goalundo subdivision there were two ice factories which worked well, but the oil and sugar mills closed down. Cane grown locally in large quantities, especially in Baliakandi and Pangsha police-stations, was used for manufacturing baskets and for export. Cotton cloths were also being woven by local weavers. Cutlery and pottery factories were started in the Gopalganj subdivision by young men trained by the Industries Department. A large number of fly-shuttle looms were introduced at Khasla, and a factory with eight looms equipped with fly-shuttles was started in Kotwalipara police-station. These factories were working well on the whole. *Gur* from date-palms was being manufactured in the Muksudpur police-station, and pottery by indigenous methods in the Kotwalipara police-station. In the Madaripur subdivision jute was being woven into gunny bags and *durries* of various kinds, and cotton into cloth by hand looms. Molasses were made in large quantities from sugar-cane and date-palm juice, and bell-metal utensils and earthenwares were manufactured at certain centres on a commercial scale. In the Manikganj subdivision of Dacca date *gur* was produced in large quantities in the neighbourhood of Jhitka in Harirampur police-station, hand spun cotton at Singjuri in Gheor police-station, and soap at Teota in Shivalaya police-station. Three sugar mills were established in the Dacca district, one at Narsingdi with the capacity for crushing 200 maunds of canes daily, the second at Sonabazar in police-station Rupganj, and the third in Kowadi—Charsindur in Kaliganj police-station with a capacity for turning out 500 maunds of sugar per day. There was no important development during the year in the districts of Mymensingh and Bakarganj.

## The Indian Factories Act, 1911.

Number of factories and factory operatives.

434. The number of factories on the register at the close of the year 1934 was 1,672, of which 1,252 were perennial and 420 seasonal. One hundred and thirty-seven factories remained closed throughout the year. These included 47 rice mills, 19 jute presses, 16 general engineering works and 13 oil mills. The average daily number of operatives employed in registered factories was 479,388. Of these 50,574 were employed in seasonal factories. The average daily numbers of women and children employed were 56,981 and 3,789, respectively.

435. The numbers of visits paid by the Inspectorate to registered and to unregistered factories were 3,355 and 231, respectively. Seven hundred and ninety-three factories were visited once, 260 twice, 145 three times and 210 more than three times. The number of visits to factories paid by District Magistrates was 22. One hundred and twenty-seven factories were not inspected during the year. Inspection.

436. The satisfactory standard of cleanliness and sanitary conditions in the larger factories noticed in previous reports was maintained during the year. In smaller factories conditions are generally far from satisfactory. The main obstacle to progress in this direction is the inadequacy of conservancy arrangements; but another impediment is the unwillingness or inability of the municipal authorities to enforce their bye-laws. There was no epidemic of disease during the year under review, but sporadic cases of cholera and small-pox were reported from some districts. Sanitary conditions.

437. The total number of accidents reported during the year from registered factories was 4,155, as against 3,630 in 1933 and 3,009 in 1932. Of these, 56 were fatal, 1,002 serious and 3,097 minor. The rate of accidents per thousand persons employed was 8·66 during the year, as against 7·98 in 1933 and 6·63 in 1932. The increase in the number of accidents is attributed to increased pressure of work and increased employment. Accidents.

438. The total number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 129, of which 103 ended in conviction, 3 in acquittal, 8 were filed, the accused having absconded, 7 were withdrawn and 8 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the 51 cases pending at the close of the preceding year, 45 ended in conviction and 6 in acquittal. Four appeals against conviction were preferred by the accused persons, but in each case the conviction was upheld. Prosecutions.

439. A noteworthy feature of the year was the repeal of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, as modified up to 1st June 1926, by the Factories Act, 1934, which came into force from the 1st January, 1935. The new Act introduces important changes in the law. The maximum daily and weekly limits of working hours in perennial factories have been reduced from 11 to 10 hours per day, and from 60 to 54 hours per week for adult workers; and from 6 to 5 hours per day for child workers. In seasonal factories, the old limits of 60 hours per week and 11 hours per day for adult male workers remain unaltered. The spreadover of working hours, also, has been restricted. For adults, the daily Factories Act, 1934.

hours of work must lie within a span of 13 hours, and for children, within a span of 7½ hours. Another provision is the introduction of an "adolescent" class of worker, i.e., young persons between the ages of 15 and 17 years. Such workers are now required to have a "certificate of fitness" before they are permitted to work as an adult. Another new feature is the power conferred on local Governments to require the provision of shelters for workers, creches, first-aid boxes, etc.

## Labour Disputes.

440. The total number of labour disputes in the year, involving stoppages of work, was 22 as against 31 in the previous year. All the disputes, except one, began and ended during the year. The total number of workers involved was 16,317, and the aggregate loss of working days was 2,55,500, as compared with 35,352 workers and 2,96,660 working days lost in the previous year. One dispute affected the docks and jetties in the Port of Calcutta, and this alone accounted for about one-half of the total number of working days lost during the year. Sixteen disputes arose out of issues concerning wages, one from disciplinary action involving the dismissal of a worker, two from questions relating to wages and three from miscellaneous causes. Five of the disputes were settled in favour of workmen and twelve against them. In the remaining five cases no definite result was attained.

## Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

441. During the year 18 trade unions were registered and the certificates of registration granted under the Act to 4 trade unions were cancelled. One trade union was dissolved and two others were amalgamated into a new organisation, which was registered during the year. The total number of registered trade unions on the Bengal Register at the close of the year was 57, as compared with 46 at the close of the previous year. The total membership of the 48 trade unions, from which returns were received at the close of the year, was 93,113, composed of 92,498 males and 615 females. The total credit balance of the 48 unions at the close of the year was Rs. 1,32,387-12-7. This figure is considerably lower than those of the two preceding years, despite an increase in the number of registered Trade Unions from 31 to 57.

## Bengal Steam Boiler Commission.

442. The Commission held thirteen ordinary meetings for the transaction of its business during the year 1934-35. The total number of boilers in Bengal on the register at the close of the year was 4,120. Three thousand two hundred and eighty-three applications for inspection of boilers were received during the year. and there were 257 applications outstanding from the previous year. During the year under review 3,199 inspections were made. The difference in the number of boilers on the register and the number of applications for inspection received during the year is due mainly to a number of boilers in the coal districts remaining unused owing to the continuance of the general trade depression. In addition to the thorough annual inspection, inspections were undertaken by the Inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining whether certificates should be revoked or suspended. Informal inspections were also made to see that certificated boilers were being worked in accordance with the terms of their certificates. Two prosecutions for offences under the Indian Boilers Act were instituted, and convictions were obtained in both cases. Ninety-three boilers were found to be defective, and detailed instructions were given for their repairs. Four boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. It is satisfactory to note that there was no serious accident during the year. The receipts of the Commission from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,83,902, of which Rs. 1,46,073, Rs. 92,945 and Rs. 35,518 represent the fees from inspections of boilers in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam, respectively. The total expenditure of the Commission, including charges on account of pensions and High Commissioner's office, amounted to Rs. 2,73,240.

## Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

443. During 1934, the Commission held 12 meetings, and 66 plans were examined and approved. Fifty of these plans were prepared in the office of the Commission. The number of inspections and tests carried out during the year were 4,575 as against 4,130 in 1933. Statutory warnings were issued in 7 cases, telephonic warnings were given in 980 cases, and 1,216 cases were reported to the factories concerned for departmental action. Twelve prosecutions were instituted during the year. The average emission of smoke from each factory chimney during the year was ·07 minutes of dense black smoke per hour, which is the lowest

since 1906 when the Commission commenced its work and when the average emission was 13·1 minutes per hour. Domestic smoke is outside the control of the Commission, but as in previous years it continued to conduct propaganda in order to minimise this form of nuisance, and in this connection it assisted and co-operated with the Calcutta Municipal Health Department and the various Ward Health Associations.

## Workmen's Compensation Act, (VIII of 1923).

444. The number of applications filed during 1934 under section 10 of the Workmen's Compensation Act was 152, as against 108 in the previous year. The increase was due primarily to the natural growth of the system, but the amendments which came into force on 1st July 1934, and brought a number of new classes of workmen within the scope of the Act contributed to the increase. The amendments also greatly increased the scale of compensation, especially in the case of workers in the lower groups of wages. This led to an increase in the claims for small partial disabilities, the amounts being now large enough to defray the curial and extra curial expenses, and still to leave a substantial balance.

445. The number of agreements filed during the year increased from 227 to 234. The agreements filed for permanent disablement involved payments of Rs. 41,157 as against Rs. 44,721 in 1933.

446. A total sum of Rs. 2,00,649 was deposited with the Commissioner as compensation in respect of death of workers and accidents resulting in permanent disablement during the year, as against Rs. 1,43,829 in the previous year. This large increase was due partly to the increase in the number of cases and partly to the increase in the scales of compensation introduced by the amending Act in 1934.

447. Statistical returns were received during 1934 from 1,726 concerns, as against 1,596 in the previous year. The average number of workers employed daily in these concerns was 575,187, including minor workers. The total number of accidents shown in the returns was 2,416 against 2,190 in the previous year, of which 66 resulted in death, 328 in permanent disablement and 2,022 in temporary disablement, the amount of compensation paid in respect thereof being Rs. 43,390, Rs. 46,971 and Rs. 21,025, respectively, as against Rs. 43,012, Rs. 46,082 and Rs. 23,385

in the previous year. Two accidents resulting in temporary disablement to minors occurred, for which Rs. 618 was paid as compensation.

448. One case of occupational disease (lead-poisoning) was disposed of during the year, and a sum of Rs. 2,730 was paid by agreement. Another claim of the same nature remained pending at the close of the year.

449. The year under report opened with 166 accounts current under section 8(7) of the Act in the postal savings bank, with a total balance of Rs. 42,726. New accounts opened during the year numbered 105, as against 48 in the previous year, with a total amount of Rs. 42,789. Of these 271 accounts, 53 were closed during the year either on the expiry of the normal periodical payments or after lump sum payments for re-investment by the beneficiaries themselves, and 218 accounts remaining current at the close of the year with a total credit of Rs. 58,435. Postal Cash Certificates worth Rs. 12,350 (face value) were purchased during the year, and the total amount of revenue realised in the shape of court-fee stamps rose from Rs. 715 to Rs. 810 in 1934.

## Indian Companies Act of 1913 and Allied Acts.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act and certain other allied Acts, in Bengal for the year 1934-35.]

450. The number of companies, limited by shares, in operation in Bengal at the close of the year under review was 4,829, as compared with 4,680 companies existing on the 31st March 1934. The total authorised and paid up capital at the close of the year was Rs. 4,15,34,48,782 and Rs. 1,32,16,69,850, respectively, against Rs. 4,14,43,16,679 and Rs. 1,33,19,54,676, respectively, at the close of the preceding year. Thus the aggregate authorised capital increased by Rs. 91,32,103, while the paid up capital was reduced by Rs. 1,02,84,826. The number of companies limited by guarantee existing on the 31st March 1935 was 126, against 118 at the close of the preceding year. The total number of companies and societies registered during the year was 322, against 313 registered during the year 1933-34. Of the new companies and societies registered, 265 were limited by shares and 8 were limited by guarantee. Of the companies registered during the last three years, more than 50 per cent. were private companies. Forty-nine societies, representing various social, philanthropic and charitable objects, were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, during the year 1934-35, as compared with 38 societies

registered during the year 1933-34. One hundred and seven companies limited by shares were finally wound up or became otherwise defunct, and their names were removed from the Register; while 99 companies went into liquidation, but were not finally dissolved during the year under report. No company limited by guarantee ceased to work during the year. The total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 89,408-1, of which Rs. 220-12 was refunded, leaving a net income of Rs. 89,187-5 as compared with Rs. 91,025-5 during the preceding year. The net receipts for the year exceeded expenditure by Rs. 54,455-10-6; the corresponding figure for the previous year being Rs. 60,650-7-6. During the year under review nine companies transferred their registered offices from this Presidency to other provinces. The North-West Soap Company, Limited, which transferred its registered office to Bombay early in the year under review, re-transferred its office to this Presidency during the latter part of the year. Changes in the names of fifteen companies were registered during the year under report.

## Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912.

451. Fifty-four new societies were registered under the Act during the year under review, of which 49 were also registered under the Indian Companies Act. Fifty-three societies went into voluntary liquidation, one society was put into compulsory liquidation under an order of the High Court, the registration of 23 societies was cancelled, the names of 4 societies which were also registered under the Indian Companies Act were removed from the Registers, and two societies were converted into Life Assurance Companies. The total number of societies existing at the close of the year under review was 343, as compared with 372 of the previous year. Calcutta has the largest number of Provident Societies on the Register, and is followed by Tippera and Dacca in East Bengal and by Rangpur and Jalpaiguri in North Bengal. Inspections were made in the case of 22 societies, and investigations were ordered into the affairs of 47 others. Of these, 6 societies could not be traced, but investigations into the affairs of the remaining 41 societies were carried out by the Actuary Mr. H. L. Humphreys, or the Assistant Registrar. As a result of these investigations the registration of 23 societies was cancelled. One society was wound up by the High Court, and most of the others went into voluntary liquidation. One society, namely the Pioneer Insurance Company, Limited, preferred an appeal to the High Court against the order of cancellation, but the appeal was rejected.

## Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1934-35.]

### Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

General position.

452. There was a slight improvement in the trade of Bengal during the year 1934-35, and the aggregate value of sea-borne trade excluding treasure rose from Rs. 120·40 crores during 1933-34 to Rs. 129·73 crores. The value of foreign sea-borne trade was Rs 99·56 crores and of coasting trade Rs. 30·16 crores, as against Rs. 97·41 crores and Rs. 22·99 crores, respectively, during the previous year. The value of foreign imports was Rs. 36·61 crores and of foreign exports Rs. 62·95 crores, as against Rs. 33·28 crores and Rs. 64·12 crores, respectively, during 1933-34. The value of coasting trade was, imports Rs. 19·53 crores and exports Rs. 10·63 crores as against Rs. 14·15 crores and Rs. 8·83 crores, respectively, in 1933-34. The quantity of goods handled at the port of Calcutta showed considerable improvement; and the British Empire's share of the trade improved slightly and accounted for about 51 per cent. of the total trade, as against 50 per cent. in the previous year. America's share in the export trade declined slightly. Japan's share in both imports and exports showed improvement, but trade with all other countries declined.

Exchange.

453. The year opened with exchange at 1*s*. 6 1/16*d*. the rupee. The rate remained steady at that level until it fell to 1*s*. 6 1/32*d*. on 5th May and to 1*s*. 6*d*. on the 17th May. Although it weakened still further and dropped to 1*s*. 5 31/32*d*. for three days, i.e., from the 21st to the 23rd May 1934, this weakness soon disappeared and a better feeling was in evidence. The rate recovered to 1*s*. 6*d*. on the 24th, at which level it remained quiet until the 20th of June. On the 21st June the rate firmed up to 1*s*. 6 1/32*d*. and continued steady at that level till the 20th of December 1934, though in the 2nd week of November the tone became a shade quieter owing to the absence of trade bills and slackness in demand for money. On account of some tightness in money conditions and fresh business in gold for export, the rate rose to 1*s*. 6 1/16*d*. on the 21st December 1934 and remained at that level till the 14th January 1935. The rate went up to 1*s*. 6 3/32*d*. on the 15th January, and to 1*s*. 6⅛*d*. on the 25th January 1935, at which point it remained firm for over a month, till it dropped to 3/32 on the 5th of March 1935. For the rest of the month of March the rate remained steady at that level. During the year the Government of India was able to effect remittances to the Home Treasury to the extent of £37·5 millions at 1*s*.

6 1/16*d.* or over, of which about £11 millions were effected from the middle of January 1935 to the end of March at 1*s.* 6 3/32*d.* or over. The visible balance of trade in the year was appreciably favourable to India, but as in the previous year, the strength in exchange was mainly due to export of gold, and partly also to the demand for money required for financing activity in the stock and silver markets.

Import Trade of Calcutta.

454. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles imported into Calcutta from foreign countries:—

| | 1933-34. Rs. | 1934-35. Rs. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cotton goods .. .. | 4,86,17,862 | 6,14,37,219 | 17·39 |
| Machinery and mill work .. .. | 4,95,68,669 | 4,39,25,164 | 12·44 |
| Metals and Ores .. .. | 3,21,35,302 | 3,99,40,272 | 11·31 |
| Oils .. .. | 2,34,74,146 | 1,99,71,038 | 5·65 |
| Instruments, apparatus and appliances .. | 1,41,43,450 | 1,68,47,317 | 4·77 |
| Chemicals .. .. | 1,08,37,899 | 1,17,75,225 | 3·33 |
| Hardware .. .. | 91,26,049 | 92,64,784 | 2·62 |
| Paper and pasteboard .. .. | 81,38,894 | 82,82,727 | 2·35 |
| Motor vehicles .. .. | 70,32,156 | 76,37,869 | 2·16 |
| Provisions and oilman's stores .. | 69,48,454 | 74,80,289 | 2·12 |
| Woollen goods .. .. | 46,32,580 | 73,95,373 | 2·09 |
| Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits. | 60,42,137 | 66,33,056 | 1·88 |
| Spices .. .. | 63,58,356 | 65,71,635 | 1·86 |
| Drugs and medicines .. | 68,49,534 | 61,05,726 | 1·73 |
| Postal articles not specified .. .. | 60,86,588 | 56,17,144 | 1·59 |
| Rubber .. .. | 41,54,832 | 47,28,867 | 1·34 |
| Railway carriages and wagons .. .. | 25,36,381 | 46,86,413 | 1·33 |
| Glass and glassware .. .. | 35,72,756 | 37,45,702 | 1·06 |
| Salt .. .. | 37,23,468 | 35,40,901 | 1·00 |
| Artificial silk .. .. | 26,33,665 | 33,66,076 | ·95 |
| Cycles .. .. | 28,55,144 | 33,53,283 | ·95 |
| Paints and painters' materials .. | 29,20,354 | 32,23,054 | ·91 |
| Tea-chests .. | 33,32,378 | 31,65,190 | ·90 |
| Lac .. .. | 11,22,509 | 26,96,352 | ·76 |
| Sugar .. | 30,71,720 | 25,31,614 | ·72 |
| Dyeing and tanning substances .. | 23,28,392 | 25,04,097 | ·71 |
| Paper-making materials (wood-pulp) .. | 24,06,673 | 23,73,643 | ·67 |
| Tobacco .. .. | 29,57,416 | 23,21,968 | ·66 |
| Wool, raw .. .. | 16,89,455 | 20,13,933 | ·57 |
| Toilet requisites .. .. | 16,51,806 | 20,03,666 | ·57 |
| Stationery (excluding paper) .. .. | 20,79,418 | 19,55,370 | ·55 |
| Books, printed and printed matter .. | 18,84,585 | 19,53,334 | ·55 |
| Apparel .. | 15,25,831 | 18,74,789 | ·53 |
| Silk goods .. .. | 15,17,146 | 18,58,347 | ·53 |
| Toys and requisites for games .. | 21,11,248 | 17,92,391 | ·51 |

| | 1933-34. | 1934-35. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Boots and shoes .. .. | 27,64,312 | 17,68,195 | ·50 |
| Manures .. .. | 16,89,180 | 17,05,961 | ·48 |
| Wood and Timber .. .. | 14,38,096 | 16,26,501 | ·46 |
| Belting for machinery .. .. | 14,90,481 | 15,49,104 | ·44 |
| Cotton (raw) .. .. | 6,78,373 | 15,29,507 | ·43 |
| Leather .. .. | 13,40,701 | 14,42,997 | ·41 |
| Umbrellas and fittings .. .. | 12,74,290 | 13,87,758 | ·39 |
| Building and engineering materials .. | 16,18,771 | 13,80,323 | ·39 |
| Grain, pulse and flour .. .. | 6,45,709 | 13,09,818 | ·37 |
| Soap .. .. | 12,55,961 | 12,06,484 | ·34 |
| Haberdashery and millinery .. | 9,41,445 | 9,71,099 | ·28 |
| Precious stones .. .. | 12,72,846 | 6,38,499 | ·18 |
| Jewellery .. .. | 1,16,433 | 5,07,873 | ·14 |
| Other articles .. .. | 1,46,89,416 | 2,16,32,707 | 6·13 |
| Total .. | 32,12,83,267 | 35,32,30,654 | 100·00 |

Liquors.

455. During the year under report, the import of foreign liquors increased slightly, the figures for the year being 1,230,458 gallons valued at Rs. 66·33 lakhs, against 1,160,252 gallons valued at Rs. 60·42 lakhs in 1933-34. There was an increase in the importation of beer and potable spirits, but the import of denatured spirit declined further. The growing demand for locally manufactured spirits, which were considerably lower in price, was responsible for this decline.

Sugar.

456. The growth of the protected Indian sugar industry practically killed the import trade of foreign sugar, which declined further during the year under report from 29,930 tons valued at Rs. 30,71,720 in 1933-34 to 23,177 tons valued at Rs. 25,31,614.

Salt.

457. The total quantity of salt imported into Calcutta in 1934-35 increased from 422,392 tons valued at Rs. 1,04;47 lakhs in 1933-34 to 498,207 tons valued at Rs. 61;84 lakhs. The Indian sources of supply, notably Kathiawar and Sind, sent larger amounts, while foreign suppliers ether than Aden and Germany were practically eliminated. The consumption was less than during the previous year, owing to large quantities being bonded instead of being put on the market in the last quarter of the year. Prices were practically the same as last year. Clearances *ex*-ship were far greater than clearances *ex-golahs*, as more favourable prices were offered *ex*-ship. The quantity in bond at the close of the year was 40,658 tons, an increase of 7,972 tons as compared with the previous year.

**Tobacco.**

458. The import of tobacco declined still further. In the previous year 2,696,790 lbs. of tobacco valued at Rs. 29·57 lakhs were imported, whereas in the year 1934-35 the figures were 1,770,786 lbs. valued at Rs. 23·22 lakhs. The decrease in the importation of un-manufactured tobacco was considerable, and was attributed to a more extensive use of Indian grown tobacco in the manufacture of cigarettes in India. The import of manufactured cigarettes increased in value by nearly Rs. 2 lakhs.

**Mineral Oils.**

459. During the year under report, the import trade in mineral oils increased considerably. The total quantity of minerals oils of all descriptions imported during the year from all sources was 99,654,203 gallons valued at Rs. 3,92·05 lakhs, against 89,478,036 gallons valued at Rs. 3,86·48 lakhs imported in the year 1933-34. Imports from Burma increased from 45,782,271 gallons valued at Rs. 2,00·65 lakhs in 1933-34 to 54,856,407 gallons valued at Rs. 2,32·63 lakhs.

**Motor vehicles.**

460. There was again a very substantial increase in the import of motor vehicles as compared with the figures of the previous year. The figures for 1934-35 were, motor cars and taxi cabs 3,126, motor cycles and scooters 274, motor omnibuses, vans and lorries 1,033. The corresponding figures of the preceding year were respectively, 2,354, 195 and 440. Of the 3,126 motor cars imported, the United Kingdom supplied 1,738, Canada 628 and the United States 648. Practically all motor cycles came from the United Kingdom. Of the motor omnibuses, vans and lorries, 149 came from the United Kingdom, 530 from Canada and 344 from the United States of America. The import of tyres and tubes increased in quantity and also in value. Supplies from the United Kingdom and Japan showed an increase, whereas those from Canada and the United States decreased.

**Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals.**

461. During the year under report the total value of drugs, medicines and chemicals imported increased to Rs. 1,78·81 lakhs from Rs. 1,76·87 lakhs in 1933-34.

**Glassware and Earthenware.**

462. The total value of the glassware imported during the year was Rs. 37·46 lakhs as against Rs. 35·73 lakhs in the previous year. The import trade in leads and false pearls, bottles and phials decreased still further. The total value of earthenware and porcelain imported during the year increased from Rs. 8·72 lakhs in 1933-34, to Rs. 9·41 lakhs.

**Machinery and Mill Work.**

463. The total value of the machinery and mill work imported during the year amounted to Rs. 4,39·25 lakhs, against Rs. 4,95·69 lakhs in the previous year. The principal decrease was in the importation of sugar machinery, which suggests that

the Indian sugar industry is now nearly fully equipped. There was also a decrease in the imports of boilers and paper mill machinery. The principal suppliers of machinery were the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. The United Kingdom supplied machinery worth Rs. 3,29·61 lakhs, the United States Rs. 53·04 lakhs and Germany Rs. 34·65 lakhs.

Metals and Metal Manufactures.

464. Imports of iron and steel amounted to 130,588 tons, against 105,968 tons in 1933-34 and 102,291 tons in 1932-33. The total value of iron and steel that came into the country through the Port of Calcutta, was Rs. 2,26·41 lakhs, against Rs. 1,79·75 lakhs in 1933-34 and Rs. 1,61·95 lakhs in 1932-33. The quantity of protected iron and steel imported was 76,185 tons valued at Rs. 1,22·11 lakhs, against 56,896 tons valued at Rs. 94·72 lakhs in 1933-34. The total amount of other metals and ores imported was 652,164 cwts. valued at Rs. 1,72·99 lakhs, against 508,283 cwts. valued at Rs. 1,41·60 lakhs in 1933-34. There was an all-round increase in the imports of metals. The United Kingdom dominated the market with 60 per cent. of the iron and steel import trade. Germany and Japan followed and increased their supplies. The United Kingdom maintained her leading position as supplier of aluminium, antifriction metal and brass.

Paper, pasteboard and woodpulp.

465. The total imports of paper, including packing paper, printing paper, writing paper and envelopes and paper manufactures was 719,648 cwts. valued at Rs. 71·02 lakhs against 613,782 cwts. worth Rs. 70·38 lakhs imported in 1933-34. The quantity of protected paper increased from 55,648 cwts. worth Rs. 12·79 lakhs in 1933-34 to 56,282 cwts. worth Rs. 13·08 lakhs. The import of wood-pulp decreased from 365,693 cwts. valued at Rs. 24·05 lakhs in 1933-34 to 358,172 cwts. valued at Rs. 23·74 lakhs. The United Kingdom retained the first place in the trade of "Paper and pasteboard". The trade in "packing paper" showed an increase both in quantity and value. Sweden contributed 55,007 cwts. valued at Rs. 6·43 lakhs out of the total import of 92,834 cwts. valued at Rs. 12·33 lakhs. The United Kingdom continued to hold the monopoly of superior qualities of writing paper, and increased her exports from 8,468 cwts. valued at Rs. 4·11 lakhs in the previous year to 9,748 cwts. valued at Rs. 4·69 lakhs. As regards other sorts of paper, out of 351,441 cwts. valued at Rs. 20 lakhs, the United Kingdom's contribution was 325,716 cwts. valued at Rs. 15·30 lakhs, the main commodity being old newspaper. The United Kingdom also supplied about two-thirds of the total imports of paper manufactures worth Rs. 9·51 lakhs. Japan was closely followed by Germany and Sweden in supplying straw boards, and Holland on account of her cheaper card-boards and pulp-boards improved her position from

18,057 cwts. valued at Rs. 1 06 lakhs in the previous year to 37,907 cwts. valued at Rs. 1·96 lakhs. Sweden was the principal supplier of wood-pulp, but Finland managed to snatch a portion of Norway's trade, and thus increased her supply to 30,370 cwts. valued at Rs. 1·94 lakhs, as against 4,168 cwts. valued at Rs. 0·25 lakhs in the previous year.

**Cotton goods.**

466. The total value of cotton goods, comprising twist and yarn, piece-goods, and other cotton fabrics imported was Rs. 6,14·37 lakhs, as against Rs. 4,86·17 lakhs in the previous year. There was an all round increase in the import trade, except in twist and yarn, which decreased from 15,351·012 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,04·49 lakhs in 1933-34 to 11,379·758 lbs. valued at Rs. 89·76 lakhs; and in other cotton fabrics the import value came down from Rs. 62·46 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 54·14 lakhs. The description "other cotton fabrics" includes hosiery valued at a little over Rs. 26 lakhs, of which over Rs. 25 lakhs came from Japan. The protective duty of 50 per cent. *ad valorem* on foreign cotton piece-goods (with minimum specific duties on grey piece-goods) and the quota system relative to Japanese cotton piece-goods was in operation during the whole year.

**Silk and Artificial Silk piece-goods.**

467. During the year under report 9,180,041 yards of silk and artificial silk piece-goods valued at Rs. 24·30 lakhs were imported into Bengal, as against 8,859,615 yards valued at Rs. 26·53 lakhs. As in the previous year Japan maintained her position as the principal supplier of silk and artificial silk piece-goods. During the last five years the value of imports of silk piece-goods has fallen from Rs. 13·82 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 1·82 lakhs during the year under review.

**Woollen goods.**

468. The total value of imported woollen goods was Rs. 73·95 lakhs against Rs. 46·33 lakhs in 1933-34. During the last five years the value of this trade has increased from Rs. 56·09 lakhs in 1930-31 to Rs. 73·95 lakhs during the year under review. Japan sent large supplies of hosiery and piece-goods, the former (hosiery) amounting to 183,764 lbs. out of 196,941 lbs. imported during the year, and the latter (piece-goods), 1,822,158 yds. out of 3,228,388 yds.

**Other articles.**

469. As in the case of many of the more important articles already dealt with, most of the articles included under "other articles" recorded an improvement in trade. The exceptions were boots and shoes, which fell from Rs. 27·64 lakhs to Rs. 17·68 lakhs, Japan being the greatest sufferer with a drop of Rs. 7·70 lakhs; non-mineral oils, in which the decrease was due to less import of cocoanut oil from Ceylon; stones and pearls unset, for which diamonds from Belgium were responsible; and toys and

requisites for games. The value of unspecified articles imported by Post fell by Rs. 21·67 lakhs to Rs. 56·17 lakhs. Imports of manures, stationery, soap and tea remained almost steady. On the other hand there were heavy increases in instruments, apparatus, etc., the United Kingdom having increased her share of electrical goods by Rs. 21·17 lakhs; in lac, in consequence of further improvement in trade with the Straits Settlements; in raw cotton, for which Egypt and Kenya Colony were mainly responsible; in raw silk, of which Japan contributed the most; and in grain, pulse and flour, due to larger imports of rice and paddy from French Indo-China and Siam. Smaller increases also occurred in cycles, jewellery, toilet requisites, apparel, raw wool, paints and painters' materials.

Import trade of Chittagong.

470. The total value of imports into Chittagong rose from Rs. 70·12 lakhs in 1933-34 to Rs. 83·11 lakhs during the year under report. The United Kingdom was responsible for over 90 per cent. of the trade.

Export trade of Calcutta.

471. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta to foreign ports:—

| | 1933-34. | 1934-35. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | |
| Jute manufactures | 21,33,27,890 | 21,41,93,644 | 37·60 |
| Tea | 11,59,95,701 | 11,25,58,375 | 17·98 |
| Jute, raw | 10,16,58,327 | 10,24,06,463 | 17·98 |
| Lac | 2,45,40,075 | 3,26,63,881 | 5·73 |
| Hides and skins, raw | 2,80,40,363 | 2,00,38,796 | 3·52 |
| Metals and ores | 1,58,57,694 | 1,53,97,562 | 2·70 |
| Seeds | 2,11,52,203 | 1,29,52,174 | 2·27 |
| Grain, pulse and flour | 1,17,76,878 | 1,19,50,341 | 2·10 |
| Woollen manufactures | 54,22,459 | 69,76,042 | 1·23 |
| Mica | 35,58,862 | 61,07,163 | 1·07 |
| Cotton, raw | 40,68,411 | 30,09,301 | ·53 |
| Coal and coke | 37,25,799 | 29,11,917 | ·51 |
| Hemp, raw | 24,07,363 | 26,30,545 | ·46 |
| Oilcakes | 24,15,728 | 24,93,979 | ·44 |
| Bones | 15,58,253 | 23,81,536 | ·42 |
| Dyeing and tanning substances | 24,64,229 | 23,37,056 | ·41 |
| Paraffin wax | 9,58,885 | 20,32,959 | ·36 |
| Manures | 10,75,940 | 14,94,774 | ·26 |
| Leather | 19,79,128 | 14,13,991 | ·25 |
| Provisions and oilman's stores | 12,32,245 | 13,16,663 | ·23 |
| Spices | 13,38,919 | 12,91,070 | ·23 |
| Postal articles | 13,86,077 | 12,71,023 | ·22 |
| Saltpetre | 10,11,710 | 9,75,414 | ·17 |

| | 1933-34. | 1934-35. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | |
| Apparel ... .. | 9,02,114 | 9,45,793 | ·17 |
| Instruments, apparatus and appliances .. | 4,26,634 | 7,88,697 | ·14 |
| Opium .. .. | 72,64,000 | 6,80,000 | ·12 |
| Oils .. .. | 5,77,479 | 5,96,197 | ·10 |
| Drugs and medicines .. .. | 3,41,830 | 4,13,975 | ·07 |
| Cordage and rope .. .. | 3,29,652 | 3,73,341 | ·07 |
| Kapok .. .. | 4,13,771 | 3,41,809 | ·06 |
| Tobacco .. .. | 6,32,079 | 3,34,164 | ·06 |
| Paints and painters' materials.. .. | 1,79,483 | 2,43,893 | ·04 |
| Other articles .. .. | 31,30,235 | 40,95,283 | ·72 |
| Total .. | 58,11,50,416 | 56,96,17,821 | 100·00 |

Grains, pulse and flour.

472. The total quantity of rice exported was 94,144 tons valued at Rs. 92·47 lakhs, against 107,657 tons valued at Rs. 94·88 lakhs in 1933-34. The export of rice to Mauritius alone increased, and the demand in the United Kingdom fell in value by nearly a lakh of rupees to the figure of Rs. 5·85 lakhs. The total quantity of cereals exported was 94,907 tons valued at Rs. 93·08 lakhs, against 108,338 tons valued at Rs. 95·48 lakhs in 1933-34. The total value of pulse exported was Rs. 25·66 lakhs, against Rs. 21·65 lakhs in 1933-34, and that of wheat flour was Rs. 0·76 lakhs, against Rs. 0·64 lakhs in the same period. The average shipment price per ton of husked rice rose from Rs. 88-2 to Rs. 98-4, while that of wheat and wheat flour fell from Rs. 106-1 and Rs. 98-4 to Rs. 85-2 and Rs. 90-4, respectively.

Tea.

473. The total quantity of tea exported was 199,523,324 lbs. valued at Rs. 11,25·58 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom alone took tea to the value of Rs. 9,53·70 lakhs. The export quota for 1934-35 was increased by 2½ per cent. over the quota for the previous year; and the average price per pound came down from 9 annas 5 pies in 1933-34 to 9 annas only. This depression in price was due to the existence of heavy stocks much in excess of demand, particularly in the United Kingdom, as well as to the increased shipment of tea from non-regulating countries, notably China and Japan. The breakdown of the negotiation to sell large quantities of tea to Russia closed a good outlet for surplus tea, and was another factor contributing to the depression in price, the quantity of tea exported to Russia falling from 708,116 lbs. valued at Rs. 3·62 lakhs in 1933-34 to 40,432 lbs. valued at Rs. 0·20 lakhs during the year under report. To provide funds for propaganda for consumption of tea, the tea cess was raised from annas 8 to annas 12 per 100 lbs. with effect from the 13th April 1935; and the total tea cess collected during the year under

report was Rs. 9,94,366, against Rs. 8,96,331 in 1933-34. The total quantity of tea waste exported amounted to 3,210,650 lbs., out of which 3,207,026 lbs. were taken by the United States of America alone.

474. The export trade in coal decreased considerably during the year under report, and the figures of coal exports show that Bengal's contribution to the foreign market is steadily falling. In 1931-32 coal worth Rs. 54·47 lakhs, was exported. In 1932-33 the export value came down to Rs. 43·68 lakhs, while in 1933-34 there was a further decrease and the export value fell to Rs. 37·10 lakhs. During the year under report only 308,420 tons of coal valued at Rs. 28·72 lakhs, were exported, of which Ceylon alone took 215,605 tons valued at Rs. 22·98 lakhs. The other foreign markets were Hongkong and the Straits Settlements; and exports to other countries were negligible. **Coal.**

475. The total quantity of lac exported was 579,770 cwts. valued at Rs. 3,26·64 lakhs, against 727,247 cwts. valued at Rs. 2,45·40 lakhs in 1933-34. The United Kingdom maintained her position as the principal consumer of Bengal lac, and during the year 234,367 cwts. of lac valued at Rs. 1,48·00 lakhs were exported to that country. **Lac.**

476. The total quantity of hides and skins exported was 23,471 tons valued at Rs. 2,06·43 lakhs, against 23,174 tons valued at Rs. 2,92·47 lakhs in the year 1933-34. Since 1931-32 Germany has been gradually increasing her import of raw hides from Bengal. The export trade with Italy was fairly steady. The total value of raw skins exported was Rs. 1,22·88 lakhs, as against Rs. 2,11·18 lakhs in 1933-34. The United States and the United Kingdom were the principal consumers of raw skins. Cuttings of raw hides and skins and dressed hides and skins were supplied to foreign countries to the value of Rs. 6·68 lakhs, as against Rs. 12·36 lakhs in 1933-34. **Hides and skins.**

477. Bengal's contribution to the foreign market under the head "metals and ores" was 699,519 tons valued at Rs. 53·97 lakhs, against 644,234 tons valued at Rs. 1,58·57 lakhs in 1933-34. The total quantity of manganese ore exported during the year under review increased from 134,643 tons valued at Rs. 24·80 lakhs in 1933-34 to 208,493 tons valued at Rs. 35·68 lakhs. The total quantity of iron and steel exported was 464,982 tons valued at Rs. 1,06·21 lakhs, against 492,909 tons valued at Rs. 1,23·64 lakhs in 1933-34. The decrease was due to reduced consumption by the United States. Under this head, the volume of export trade with the United Kingdom and Japan increased, particularly with the latter in respect of iron and steel. **Metals and ores.**

**Mica.**

478. Mica in block and splittings was exported to foreign countries during the year to the value of Rs. 61·07 lakhs, the total quantity being 93,711 cwts., against 55,697 cwts. valued at Rs. 35·59 lakhs in 1933-34. The figures of 1934-35 showed a striking increase in exports, which were higher than those recorded for any previous year since the commencment of the trade depression. All the principal importing countries, notably the United Kingdom and the United States of America, contributed to this improvement.

**Oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes.**

479. The total value of oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes exported during the year amounted to Rs. 1,57·19 lakhs, against Rs. 2,39·36 lakhs in 1933-34. Under the head "oilseeds" 96,605 tons of linseed valued at Rs. 1,17·92 lakhs were exported, as against 188,627 tons valued at Rs. 2,08·14 lakhs in 1933-34. The export of castor seed amounted to 8,845 tons valued at Rs. 824 lakhs, as against 1,124 tons valued at Rs. 1·13 lakhs in 1933-34. The total value of oilseeds exported was Rs. 1,26·31 lakhs, as against Rs. 2,09·49 lakhs in the previous year. The export of vegetable oils increased slightly, and amounted to 484,274 gallons valued at Rs. 5·94 lakhs, against 463,928 gallons valued at Rs. 5·71 lakhs in the previous year. The export trade in oilcakes was fairly steady, and the amount of oilcakes exported was 50,311 tons valued at Rs. 24·94 lakhs.

**Raw cotton.**

480. Exports under this head amounted to 6,122 tons valued at Rs. 30·09 lakhs. The previous year's figures were 8,548 tons valued at Rs. 40·68 lakhs. The fall was due mainly to reduced imports by the United States of America and Japan.

**Raw Hemp.**

481. During the year under report, the export of raw hemp increased from 297,638 cwts. valued at Rs. 24·07 lakhs in 1933-34 to 343,420 cwts. valued at Rs. 26·31 lakhs.

**Jute and jute manufactures.**

482. The total export of jute and jute manufactures during the year under review amounted to 1,395,810 tons valued at Rs. 31,66·00 lakhs, against 1,372,987 tons valued at Rs. 31,49·86 lakhs during the previous year. The shipment of raw jute increased from 3,930,315 bales weighing 701,842 tons valued at Rs. 10,16·58 lakhs in 1933-34 to 3,989,692 bales weighing 712,445 tons valued at Rs. 10,24·06 lakhs. The improvement was due to larger indents from Italy, Spain, Belgium and Japan. Trade with the United States in raw jute was steady. There was an improvement in the export of gunny bags, and the figures for the year were 395,114 tons valued at Rs. 10,23·08 lakhs, against 380,618 tons valued at Rs. 970·72 lakhs in the previous year. The demand for Hessian bags continued to increase, rising from

93,292,982 pieces valued at Rs. 169·03 lakhs in 1933-34 to 100,152,450 pieces valued at Rs. 1,84·80 lakhs during the year under review. Exports of gunny cloth remained steady, and 280,341 yards valued at Rs. 10,97·38 lakhs were exported, against 280,056 yards valued at Rs. 11,36·13 lakhs recorded in 1933-34. Hessian cloth was exported to the extent of 1,029,551,847 yards valued at Rs. 10,54·93 lakhs, against 1,016,652,249 yards valued at Rs. 10,89·93 lakhs in 1933-34. The demand for sacking cloth declined, and the figures for the year were 32,900,719 yards valued at Rs. 42·45 lakhs, against 34,833,892 yards valued at Rs. 46·20 lakhs in 1933-34. The net collection of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 10·78 lakhs, against Rs. 10·15 lakhs in the previous year. For the period from 1st April 1934 to 31st October 1934 the Association Mills, with few exceptions, worked 40 hours a week, with 15 per cent. of their hessian looms sealed. With effect from 1st November 1934, 2½ per cent. of the sealed looms in each mill were released. The supply of labour in jute mills was reported to be plentiful throughout the year.

**Dyeing and tanning substances.**

483. Bengal's export trade in dyeing and tanning substances consisted mainly of myrobalans and extracts therefrom. The total export trade under this head amounted to 655,152 cwts. valued at Rs. 23·37 lakhs, against 541,466 cwts. valued at Rs. 24·64 lakhs in the previous year. The United Kingdom was mainly responsible for the improvement in the export of myrobalans. Despite this improvement the average shipment price per cwt. declined from Rs. 4-4 to Rs. 3-6 as compared with the previous year.

**Other articles.**

484. The value of exported opium recorded a heavy decline from Rs. 72·64 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 6·80 lakhs during the year under report. This was principally due to shipments to Siam being *nil*, as against Rs. 48·64 lakhs in 1933-34. Exports of woollen manufactures, consisting chiefly of carpets and rugs, advanced from Rs. 54·22 lakhs to Rs. 69·76 lakhs, the United Kingdom being by far the largest buyer, her purchases amounting to Rs. 66·03 lakhs. Shipments of paraffin wax improved by Rs. 10·74 lakhs, owing to an increased demand from Italy. There was also a better demand for bones from Belgium. On the other hand both the United Kingdom and Japan curtailed their indents for unmanufactured tobacco. Exports of *putchuck*, sent principally to Hongkong, and also of spices and saltpetre, remained fairly steady. Smaller exports of tanned skins (other than those of goats or sheep) to the United Kingdom accounted for the drop in exports of leather, while exports of manures, boots and shoes and cotton manufactures increased. The value of the articles exported by post fell from Rs. 13·86 lakhs to Rs. 12·71 lakhs.

Export trade of Chittagong.

485. The principal articles exported from the Port of Chittagong were tea worth Rs. 4,60·55 lakhs, raw jute valued at Rs. 61·69 lakhs, paraffin valued at Rs. 8·19 lakhs and raw cotton worth Rs. 9·75 lakhs. The total value of the exports was Rs. 5,42·51 lakhs as against Rs. 5,23·26 lakhs recorded in the previous year.

Shipping.

486. During the year the total number of steamers, motor-vessels and sailing ships with cargo or in ballast which entered and cleared the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong in connection with foreign trade was 641 as compared with 668 in the previous year and 841 in 1930-31. Of these, 509 were British or British Indian, 47 cleared with full cargoes of coal, and 94 with jute.

Distribution of foreign trade.

487. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal foreign countries:—

| | Imports. | | | | Exports. | | | | Percentage of total. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1933-34. | | 1934-35. | | 1933-34. | | 1934-35. | | | |
| | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | 1933-34. | 1934-35. |
| United Kingdom .. | 1,493·07 | 46·47 | 1,703·70 | 48·26 | 1,868·28 | 31·96 | 1,820·54 | 31·77 | 37·11 | 38·05 |
| British Possessions .. | 288·63 | 8·99 | 312·77 | 8·73 | 954·00 | 16·32 | 886·94 | 13·71 | 13·71 | 18·95 |
| Germany .. .. | 224·93 | 7·00 | 227·77 | 6·45 | 324·45 | 5·55 | 270·68 | 4·73 | 6·07 | 5·38 |
| Belgium .. .. | 80·42 | 2·50 | 48·60 | 1·38 | 141·00 | 2·41 | 140·52 | 2·45 | 2·44 | 2·04 |
| France .. .. | 24·41 | ·76 | 22·08 | ·62 | 178·00 | 3·05 | 136·88 | 2·39 | 2·24 | 1·72 |
| Italy .. .. | 73·40 | 2·29 | 75·88 | 2·15 | 125·59 | 2·15 | 175·95 | 3·07 | 2·20 | 2·72 |
| Japan .. .. | 432·06 | 13·45 | 517·15 | 14·64 | 150·88 | 2·58 | 205·91 | 3·59 | 6·43 | 7·81 |
| Java .. .. | 53·28 | 1·66 | 45·33 | 1·28 | 38·33 | ·66 | 30·80 | ·54 | 1·01 | ·82 |
| United States .. | 208·90 | 6·50 | 261·30 | 7·40 | 1,019·79 | 17·44 | 943·64 | 16·47 | 13·56 | 13·01 |
| South America .. | ·04 | ·00 | ·00 | ·00 | 323·24 | 5·53 | 363·14 | 6·34 | 3·57 | 3·92 |
| Other countries .. | 333·69 | 10·38 | 317·73 | 9·09 | 722·44 | 12·35 | 754·77 | 14·94 | 11·66 | 5·58 |
| Total .. | 3,212·83 | 100·00 | 3,532·31 | 100·00 | 5,846·00 | 100·00 | 5,729·77 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

## Coasting Trade.

**General.**

488. The total value of the coasting trade was Rs. 25,48·73 lakhs, as against Rs. 19,62·05 lakhs in 1933-34, imports and exports being Rs. 15,96·94 lakhs and Rs. 9,51·79 lakhs, against Rs. 11,81·38 lakhs and Rs. 7,80·67 lakhs, respectively, in 1933-34. The previous year's set back in the coasting trade of Calcutta was almost made good in the year under review, and striking improvements in most of the major items were noticeable, both on the import and export sides.

**Imports.**

489. Receipts of rice and mineral oil from Burma showed marked improvement, and imports of paddy and timber from Burma also recorded an increase. Bombay sent 84 lakhs more of grey piece goods, 15 lakhs more of coloured piece goods and 6 lakhs more each of raw cotton and twist and yarn. Arrivals of wheat from Karachi increased greatly; and rape seed and raw cotton from that source also advanced. Imports from Madras accounted for increased receipts of ground nuts, tobacco and cotton twist and yarn, and imports of cocoanut and groundnut oils paper and raw cotton also continued to rise. Salt from all Indian sources, and specially from Sind and Non-British Indian Ports, showed considerable improvement.

**Exports.**

490. The principal increases in exports to Bombay occurred in respect of tea, gunny cloth and gunny bags. Madras improved her demands for most of the commodities taken from Bengal, of which coal, chillies and tobacco were the most important. Sind took 9 lakhs more gunny bags and cloth and 5 lakhs more coal. Exports of gunny bags and cloth, provisions, hardware and chillies to Burma recorded an increase, but her demand for tin, betel nuts and tobacco fell off. Non-British Indian ports improved their demands for coal and tea.

**Coasting trade of Chittagong.**

491. Chittagong's coasting trade increased from Rs. 289 lakhs to Rs. 430 lakhs, due principally to increased imports of rice and paddy from Burma.

## The Calcutta Port Trust.

**Port and Port Approaches.**

492. The Port and the Port Approaches were maintained satisfactorily during the year under review, although a marked feature presented itself in the form of unusual shoaling of Saugor Crossing, on which a minimum depth was available at one period

of only 14 ft. reduced. The Middleton Bar was the governing bar for determination of draft for 359 days during the year. The Western Middleton shoaled to 12 ft. in September, but for this shoaling compensation was obtained by the opening of the Eastern Middleton in July. The Eastern Gut was the governing bar for 6 days, but the average available depth was 18′ 17″ as against 18′ 5″ during the preceding year. The new lighted channel between Uluberia and Garden Reach was much more in use than in the preceding year, and altogether 416 vessels used it, as against 257 in the preceding year. Of that number, 234 anchored at Uluberia, 38 at Budge Budge and 144 proceeded to sea without anchoring.

Trade.

493. During the year under report 1,217 vessels with an aggregate net tonnage of 4,068,874 entered the port, as compared with 1,614 vessels with net tonnage of 3,870,343 during the previous year. Of these, 147 vessels entered the King George's Docks, as compared with 154 during 1933-34. The aggregate net tonnage of sea-borne traffic at the port was 8,377,233 tons as compared with 7,580,497 tons during the previous year. The great reduction in foreign trade, which was accentuated by the tariff policy of Government, rendered the coasting trade of vital importance to the welfare of the Port; and during the year the Commissioners were in correspondence with the Government of India in connection with the manipulation by railways of coal freights to secure traffic which would normally be carried by sea.

Finance.

494. The income for the year 1934-35 was Rs. 3,06,19,818, as against Rs. 2,88,29,623 in the preceding year. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 3,18,03,266 as compared with Rs. 2,97,41,776 during 1933-34, and the year ended with a deficit of about Rs. 12,00,000. The increase in expenditure was due partly to the payment of the capital instalments on the Kidderpore Dock Loan, partly to the restoration of half the cuts in salary of the Commissioners' employees with effect from the 1st July 1934, and partly to the increase in labour charges on account of the greater volume of traffic. An appropriation of Rs. 14,55,000 was made during the year from the Revenue Reserve Fund, which stood at the end of the year at Rs. 44,09,913. The Commissioners secured into their own hands the whole of the 1921 loan of Rs. 80 lakhs, bearing interest at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, and reduced the rate to 4 per cent. They also reduced from 4½ per cent. to 4 per cent. the interest payable on the 1933 loan of Rs. 21,75,000 which has been held by the Commissioners since its issue. The Commissioners ferry service, which had not been paying its way, was closed on the 15th November 1934 and the steamers were sold.

## Howrah Bridge.

**Revenue and working.**

495. The income of the Howrah Bridge during the year amounted to Rs. 3,65,833 and expenditure totalled Rs. 5,00,297. The deficit on the year's working was due to the expenditure of Rs. 2,20,603 on special repair work, which the Commissioners decided had to be undertaken in order to keep the Bridge in use during the period which must elapse before the new bridge can be constructed. The two new drawbridges and hauling out sections were completed and were placed in position, and the work of reconditioning the remaining sixteen pontoons was commenced. This deficit extinguished the general Reserve Fund of Rs. 87,010 and left a debt of Rs. 47,454 to the Port Commissioners. During the year the bridge was opened on 300 occasions, of which 61 were day and 239 were night openings. The number of vessels which passed through the bridge during 1934-35 was 6,022, as compared with 5,055 during the previous year.

## Inland Steam and Motor Vessels.

**Surveys.**

496. The number of vessels surveyed by the survey staff stationed at Calcutta was 439 steam and 85 motor vessels, and by the Ship Surveyor, Chittagong 213 steam and 61 motor vessels. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 45,562 at Calcutta and to Rs. 14,696 at Chittagong.

**Examinations.**

497. Two hundred and one candidates were examined at Calcutta and 100 at Chittagong for certificates of competency as engine-drivers of inland steam and motor vessels, including permits to take charge of inland motor vessels of 40 B.H.P. or less. Of these, 55 passed at Calcutta and 50 at Chittagong. Out of three hundred and thirty seven candidates examined at Calcutta for Inland Masters' and Serangs' certificates, one hundred and two passed.

**Courts of Enquiry.**

498. During the year under report seven special courts of enquiry were constituted under section 33 (*1*) (*a*) of the Inland Steam Vessels Act to hold investigations into accidents to inland steam or motor vessels. In three cases the Local Government directed District Magistrates to hold investigations under section 33 (*1*) (*b*). In 5 out of these 10 cases the certificates of the Masters concerned were suspended for various periods not exceeding 6 months. The Special Court of Enquiry appointed to inquire into the sinking of the I.S.V. "Manoung" in the river Hooghly off Fuldobi on 7th June 1934 found that the vessel was

grossly overcrowded and that the accident caused considerable loss of life. The certificate held by the Serang was permanently cancelled, and the owners, the Serang and the Booking Clerk were prosecuted under section 58 of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917. Mr. Gaebele, the managing partner of "The Hooghly Steamer Service", the owners of the "Manoung", was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000, or in default to undergo 6 months' rigorous imprisonment. The Serang and the Booking Clerk were sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment under section 282, Indian Penal Code. An appeal has been preferred by Mr. Gaebele and is still pending in the High Court.

499. The following new rule framed under the Inland Steam Vessels Act during the year under review is of general interest, viz., "All inland vessels departing from a place where a storm signal is displayed are required to hoist a red flag as a warning to other vessels and craft that stormy weather is expected." Rules.

## Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

500. During the year under report two new licences were granted under section 3 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz., (1) the Bhatpara, Noapara, Garulia and North Barrackpore Electric Licence, 1934, which included the area previously covered by the Bhatpara Electric Licence, 1920, and (2) the Associated Power (Bengal) Electric Licence, 1934. The Comilla Electric Licence, 1931, the Pabna Electric Licence, 1928, and the Bhatpara Electric Licence, 1920, were revoked. Supply was started under the Jalpaiguri Electric Licence, 1933. Good progress was made in the reorganisation of the existing power stations and the rearrangement of the feeders and other aerial lines to suit the new three phase 50 cycles supply under the Darjeeling Electric Licence. Considerable progress was also made by the licensees of the Khulna Electric Licence, 1932, in the construction of the generating station and overhead line work, but the compulsory works had not been completed by the end of the year. The compulsory works under the Naihati Electric Licence, 1932, were nearing completion. The period for completion of these works was extended by Government from the 7th December 1934 to the 31st March 1935. Considerable progress in the construction of the compulsory works was made by the licensees of the Midnapore Electric Licence, 1932, but very little progress was made by the same licensees under the Bankura Electric Licence, 1932. The licensees of the Barisal Electric Licence, 1933, made very good progress towards the completion of their compulsory works.

Sanction to the supply of electrical energy under section 28 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted to:—

(1) Messrs. Kilburn and Company to supply energy to certain houses of Government officials at Barisal. (Date of extended sanction—1st March 1934).

(2) The Eastern Bengal Railway Authorities to supply energy from the Saidpur Power Station to the Government Telegraph Office. (Sanction formerly granted extended for a period of three years from the 20th June 1934).

In June 1934 the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, announced that uniform rates would be charged in the Calcutta and outlying areas, and towards the end of that year the Corporation declared a reduction of 3 pies per unit in the rate charged for domestic supply to take effect from the 1st January 1935. The net rate per unit for domestic supplies is now annas two and pies six. There were 133 accidents during the year, as against 105 in 1933. Of these 8 were fatal.

# CHAPTER XIII.

## Literature and the Press.

### Books.

[Bengal Library and Working of Act XXV of 1867.]

Publications.

501. The total number of books and periodicals registered during the year was 4,013 and 1,236, as against 3,441 and 1,230 during the previous year; and the increase in the number of books was due to the increased output of educational works such as school text-books which were nearly 600 above the preceding year's total. Eighteen different languages were represented in the year's publication.

Art and Industry.

502. The only two notable books on Art both related to histrionics. *Sinema*, by Narendra Dev, gave many interesting details of the film industry and cinema acting, and an ancient Sanskrit treatise on the art of acting and dancing was critically edited under the title of *Abhinaya Darpan* by Babu Manomohan Ghosh, M.A., of the Calcutta University. Mr. H. H. Ghosh produced a useful and practical work on *Sugar in India*, and various treatises on different aspects of agriculture were also published in Bengali.

Biography.

503. Four biographies merited notice. Professor A. V. Rao, M.A., PH.D., of Lucknow University, produced a Life of George, Lord Lyttleton (1709-1773), under the title of *A Minor Augustan*, which is of interest to students of the eighteenth century. There was a biography of the late Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, entitled *Deshapriya Jatindra Mohan*, and one of the late Mr. V. J. Patel, *Ploughboy to President*, the first being in Bengali by Mr. S. C. Dhar, M.A., and the second in English from the pen of Mr. R. Chowdhury. The late Khan Bahadur Abdul Ghaffar published as *A Short Biography of My Huzur* a life of his spiritual guide Hazrat Murshed Ali (1852-1901), a saint of the Sufi denomination.

Drama.

504. Considered as a piece of art, the *Sravan Gatha* (Lays of Sravan) by Rabindra Nath Tagore, a musical drama that was probably intended for production at Santiniketan, occupied a high place; and *Bansari*, by the same author, a three-act drama of modern Bengali high life "of the belati brand", contained lessons for the younger generation by reason of its idealistic conception of love and marriage.

Fiction.

505. Conservatism in social matters appeared to be the dominating feature of the year's fiction, and the performances of the so-called modernists tended to lack sincerity and truth. In *Uday Asta* (Sunrise and Sunset) a lady writer gave a very uninviting picture of westernized Indian life; and other female authors upheld the time-honoured ideals of Hinduism relating to female chastity, continence, and pious widowhood. Impatience with the orthodoxy of village mollas found expression in a novel *Chauchir* by a Muhammadan writer; and among books of political significance, *Jhad* (The storm) cleverly exposed the evils of the revolutionary movement.

History.

506. History continued to command attention, and the most important publications were *The History of North-Eastern India* (320-760 A.D.) by Dr. Basak of the Presidency College, Calcutta; a monograph on *Malik Ambar*, the Muhammadan statesman and military leader of the Deccan (d. 1626) by Dr. Choudhury; a *History of the Paramara Dynasty* by Dr. Ganguli of Benares University; and the second volume of Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar's *Fall of the Mughal Empire*.

Politics.

507. A welcome feature of the political literature of the year was the appearance of a number of books condemning terrorism. A well reasoned appeal to the young men and women of Bengal was issued by Mr. J. N. Gupta, C.I.E., I.C.S. (retired), who was supported by Sir P. C. Ray, Mrs. C. R. Das, Mrs. J. M. Sen Gupta and others. Speeches made by Kumar H. K. Mitra, Mr. P. N. Tagore and Mr. Brojendra Narayan Acharya Choudhuri in the same strain, were issued in pamphlet form; and Barindra Kumar Ghosh, the convicted leader of the Manicktala Bomb Conspiracy of 1908, published a book, *Wounded Humanity*, exposing with singular coolness the futility of Congress and Communist theories and activities. The futility of terrorism was further indicted in two well-written Bengali dramas by Devananda Sarma and Mr. J. N. Gupta. On the other hand Communist ideas continued to be propagated by means of translations of foreign publications on Marxism, while a sane view of Communism as practised in Russia was contained in *Russia To-day* by Nityaranjan Banerjee, who visited the country in 1933. The picture drawn is not inviting to Indian eyes, nor was it intended to be so.

Religion.

508. Religious literature was as usual extensive and characteristic of the interest which Indians have always taken in spiritual matters; but books of outstanding merit were few in number. The most important were *The Origin and Development of Religion in Vedic Literature* by Dr. Deshmukh, Education Minister of the Central Provinces; *Sakti or Divine Power*, by Dr. Das of Krishnagar College; *The Basic Conception of Buddhism* by Pandit

Vidhusekhar Bhattacharyya; and *Muslim Thought and its Sources*, by Professor Syed M. Nadvi of the Islamia College, Calcutta.

509. The unemployment problem and the need for economic planning produced two interesting works, *A Recovery Plan for Bengal* by Mr. S. C. Mitter, and *Ten Year Plan and Solution of Indian's Middle Class Unemployment* by Mr. J. N. Ghosh. Miscellaneous.

## Newspapers and periodicals.

[Annual Report on the Indian papers printed or published in Bengal during 1934.]

510. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in the Presidency during the year under review, was 803 against 767 of the previous year. With the exception of 10, the nature of the edition of which was unknown, this number included 305 newspapers and 488 periodicals, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 297 newspapers and 459 periodicals respectively. They represented 37 daily, 261 weekly, 5 bi-weekly, 2 tri-weekly, 22 fortnightly, 369 monthly, 8 bi-monthly, 48 quarterly and 12 annual publications, besides 10 issued thrice a year and 19 issued twice a year. 194 newspapers and periodicals were started, and 140 ceased to exist during the year under review. Number of newspapers and periodicals.

511. Dividing these publications according to language, 246 or 30·6 per cent. were in English, 382 or 47·5 per cent. in Bengali, 59 or 7·3 per cent. in Hindi, 24 or 2·9 per cent. in Urdu. Those in Tibetan, Assamese, Punjabi, Guzrati, Oriya, Chinese, Arabic and Nepalese, and those which were bi-lingual or in more than two languages, supplied the balance. Language.

512. Of the total number of newspapers and periodicals mentioned above, 521 were published in the town of Calcutta, 51 in the Presidency, 48 in the Burdwan, 50 in the Rajshahi, 102 in the Dacca, 22 in the Chittagong Divisions, respectively, besides 1 in the Malay States, 3 in Tripura, 2 in Cooch Behar, and 3 in French Chandernagore. Distribution.

513. As in 1933, prosecutions under sections 124-A and 153-A, I. P. C., were nil during the year 1934. Eighty-nine warnings were issued, as against 75 in the preceding year. Action was taken under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, by demand of security from 10 newspapers and presses, and in two cases the security was forfeited. There were 8 cases of proscription of books under section 19 of the I. P. (E. P.) Act, 1931. The general tone of the press was very much the same as in the previous year. Though the improved attitude in regard to terrorism which was noticed last year was maintained, and though there was The Press.

a greater readiness to give publicity to the views of Government, extremism was still the dominant characteristic of the largest and most important section of the press, manifesting itself in a determination to find fault with Government, to ascribe or insinuate improper motives, and to take up from any and every source material wherewith to embarrass or discredit Government. This extremism was, however, more subdued and, except in a few cases, less open and direct in expression than in previous years, a result dependent partly upon fear of punishment under the Press Act and partly upon the activities of the Press Officer.

### Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

514. During the year under review 981 films representing 2,861,625 feet, were certified by the Bengal Board of Censors, of which 78 representing 701,933 feet were Indian, 415 representing 701,080 feet were British, 482 representing 1,451,198 feet were American and 6 representing 7,414 feet were of other countries. Of the total number, approximately 7·95 per cent. were Indian, 42·3 per cent. British, 49,14 per cent. American and only ·61 per cent. of other countries. Of the films certified this year by the Board, only 35 were silent. Certificates were refused to 5 films, and excisions were made in 13 films before they were certified for public exhibition.

515. The Board suspended under section 7 (*4*) of the Cinematograph Act, the Punjab Board Certificate for the films "The Mill" or Mazdoor" (Syn.), and the local Government by notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" declared the film to be uncertified in the whole of the Bengal Presidency. There was no prosecution for any breach of the rules under the Act during the period under review.

516. There has been a definite advance in the right direction by Bengalee producers, who have realized the necessity of producing the same film both in Bengali and Hindi. Indian-made films continue to become more popular in cinema houses in the Indian quarters. Up-to-date Indian producers have, however, concentrated their efforts mainly on the production of historical and mythological stories. There is a vast field still unexploited, for example the production of short films depicting the scenery of India, the art and architectural beauties of India, and other similar subjects of an educational character. Indian producers made great progress during the year under review in the technique and camera work of their films. Many pictures in Tamil and Telegu were being produced in the Studios at Tollygunge; and one hundred and sixty-three licenses were issued by the Board to peripatetic shows in and around Calcutta during the period under review.

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BENGAL
AND
SIKKIM
Scale 1 Inch = 25 Miles
SIKKIM
DARJEELING
DINAJPUR
RANGPUR
COOCH-BEHAR
MALDA
BOGRA
RAJSHAHI
MYMENSINGH
MURSHIDABAD
PABNA
DACCA
BIRBHUM
NADIA
BURDWAN
JESSORE
FARIDPUR
TIPPERAH
BANKURA
HOOGHLY
NOAKHALI
MIDNAPORE
HOWRAH
CALCUTTA
KHULNA
BACKERGUNGE
24 PARGANAS
CHITTAGONG
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS
BAY OF BENGAL
88°
90°
92°
26°
24°
22°

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